THE NATIONAL SPORTS REVIEW™

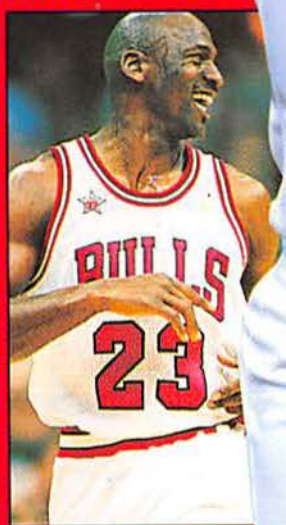
PREVIEW Sports PUBLICATIONS

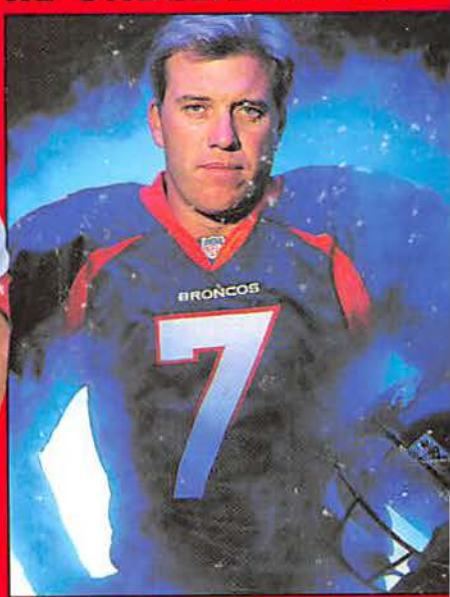
1998's ATHLETES of the YEAR

TOP MALE & FEMALE!
BEST IN EVERY SPORT!

THE YEAR'S BEST & WORST

THE OUTRAGEOUS TO THE UNBELIEVABLE!





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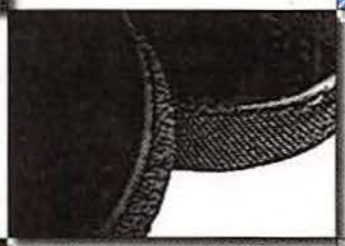

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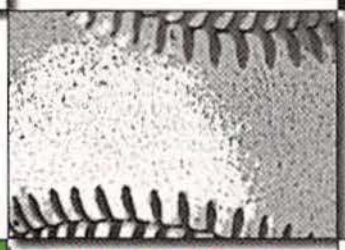

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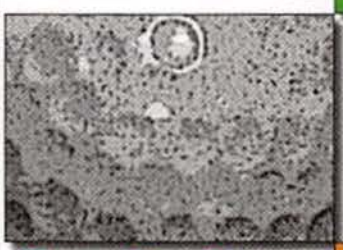

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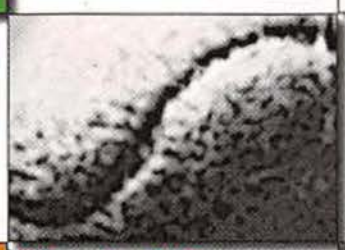

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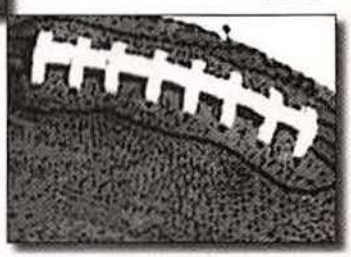

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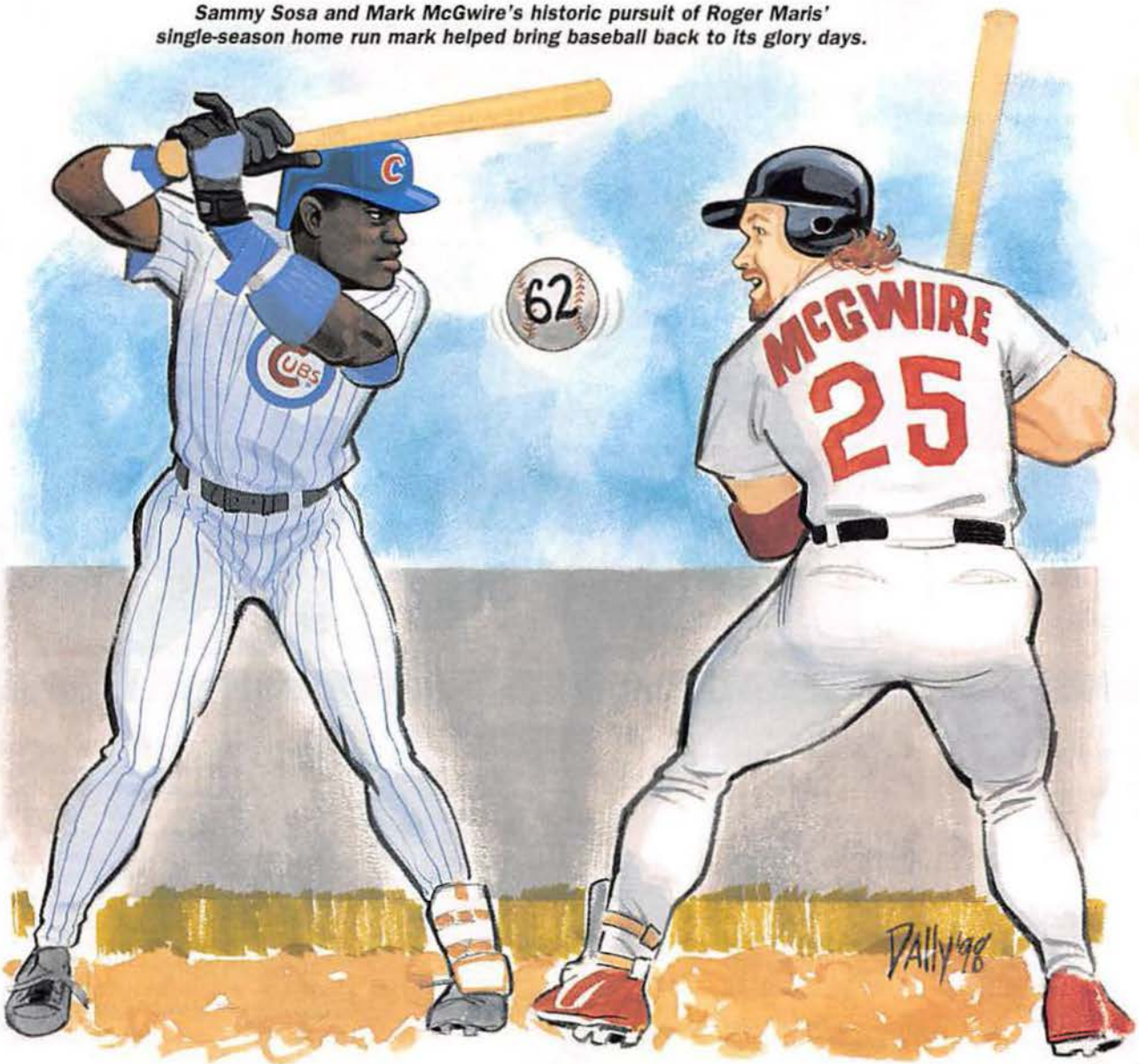
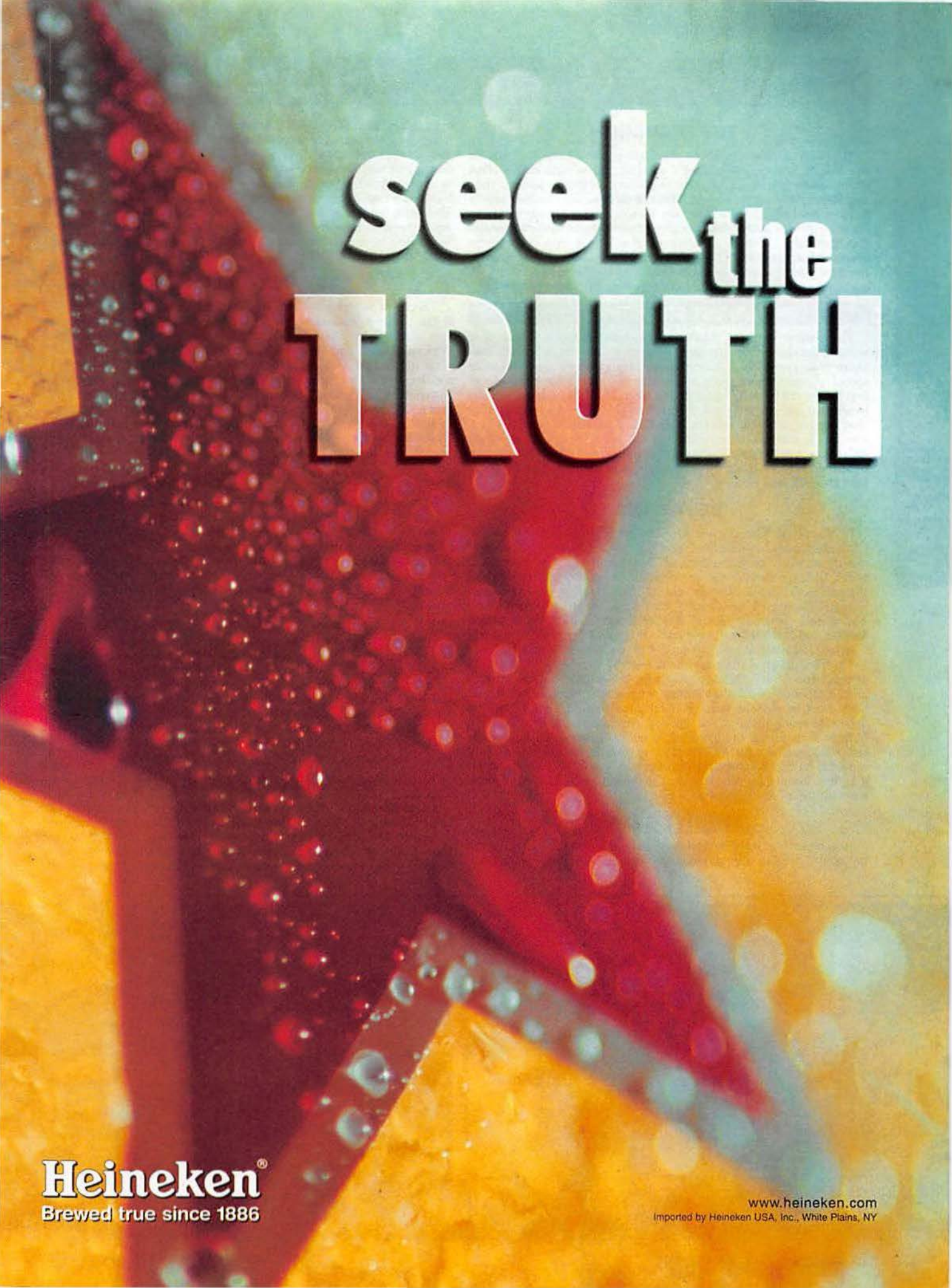
Openings

Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire's historic pursuit of Roger Maris' single-season home run mark helped bring baseball back to its glory days.

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The Best and Worst of 1998

BEST FRANCHISE

Measured in championships, the Chicago Bulls have no rivals for the title as this country's best franchise. Three consecutive NBA championships and six in eight years say as much. In fact, they might have won eight straight if **Michael Jordan** hadn't retired briefly to play baseball. Chicago won this year despite a serious injury to Jordan sidekick **Scottie Pippen**, aging players, and constant speculation about the break-up of the team. Meanwhile, in a sport where even the best teams don't win much more than 60% of their games, the New York Yankees spent almost the entire regular season with a winning percentage of over .700, finishing the season at .704.

WORST FRANCHISE

The Denver Nuggets didn't understand that while it's all right to build for the future, it's entirely unacceptable to purposely sabotage your team. After losing or trading away its best talent in recent years, Denver gave up its one remaining big-time player just before the season began. It was a credit to the grittiness of the bench-warmers who found themselves thrust into starting roles that Denver did not break the NBA record for fewest wins in a season. In the aftermath, management did not do its image any good by axing coach **Bill Hanzlik** after just one season. There's not a coach in basketball who could have squeezed more wins out of the troop that Hanzlik was handed.

BEST GAME

In the usual NBA playoff way, the sixth game of the Chicago-Utah championship final was too choppy and lacking in rhythm to qualify as truly great basketball. But for drama, the match-up, which Chicago won 87-86, was difficult to beat. Consider a few of the sub-plots. Could Chicago seal its third straight title and sixth in eight years on Utah's court? Would the team be broken up as was widely rumored? Would **Michael Jordan** retire? Would **Dennis Rodman** and **Karl Malone** duke it out? Or would Utah win and extend a series that seemed as if it would end in Chicago in five games?

Utah led most of the game as it shot 50 percent from the field and out-rebounded Chicago. Early in the fourth quarter Jordan looked drained and **Scottie Pippen**, who was suffering from a bad back, was in obvious pain. But Chicago battled back to cut its deficit to one point and set up the exciting final scenario. With Malone, who already had scored 31 points, holding the ball to the left of the lane, Jordan left his man, to slap the ball away. With 5.2 seconds, he faked **Bryan Russell** practically out of his shoes and hit a 15-foot jump shot, punctuating the basket by holding his follow-through for a few extra seconds.

WORST GAME

It seems that just about every year we are offered up some national-championship, game-of-the-century matchup—blah, blah, blah, blah. But THE GAME is almost invariably a boring rout. Consider Nebraska and Tennessee in the Orange Bowl. Nebraska was undefeated and still very much in contention for a national championship. Tennessee had one loss to nemesis Florida but had swept through the remainder of a demanding schedule. A win over Nebraska might win over voters who had watched No. 1-ranked Michigan barely squeak by Washington State. But despite the presence of college football's best quarterback, **Peyton Manning**, Tennessee never had a chance. In fact, fans could have headed home at the half without feeling cheated. Final score: 42-17.

BEST PERFORMANCE

There are so many possibilities, it seems unfair to choose one. **Se Ri Pak**, the new golden woman of the LPGA tour, captured a 20-hole playoff to become the youngest champion in the history of the U.S. Women's Open, and then the following week set an LPGA record with a 61. **Pete Sampras** won his fifth Wimbledon in a five-set thriller. But for a single game, **Michael Jordan** could not be matched. Although visibly tired, and playing large portions of the sixth game without an injured **Scottie Pippen**, Jordan scored 45 points, including the winning basket. But we'll give the nod to **Mark McGwire** and **Sammy Sosa** for their historic home run chase, which rekindled widespread public affection for baseball.

WORST PERFORMANCE

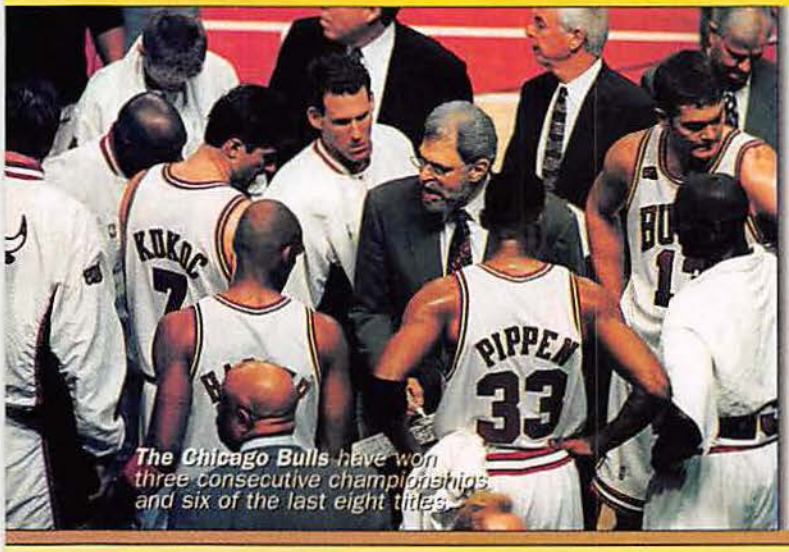
Marcelo Rios' Australian Open final against **Petr Korda** ranks among the most pathetic performances in any recent Grand Slam final. Rios looked dazed throughout the match and won just six games against an opponent whom he was capable of beating. The U.S. hockey team's Olympic ouster against the Czech Republic was another noticeable downer, as was the American national soccer team's first half, deer-in-the-headlight act against Germany.

BEST PLAY

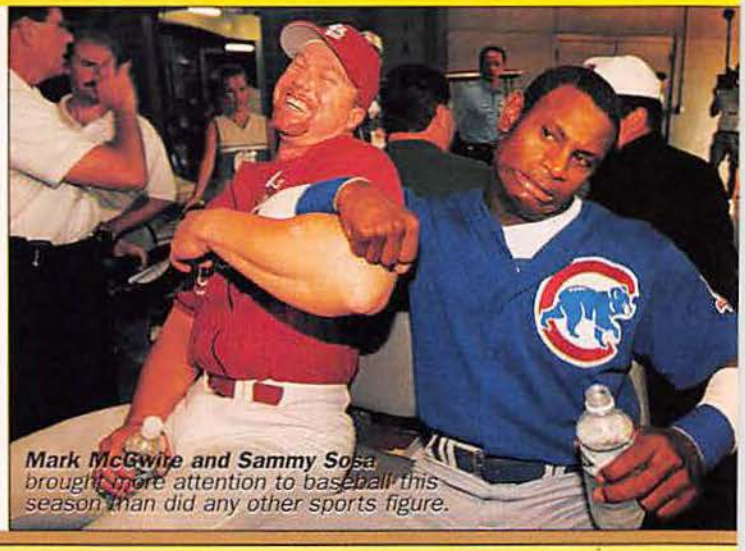
He'd survived one of the most spectacular crashes in Olympic racing history. But Austria's **Hermann Maier** remarkably seemed unaffected by his accident, which had sent him somersaulting into a barrier and left him with a sore knee and shoulder. Three days later, Maier won the super-giant slalom by an impressive six-tenths of a second. Meanwhile, it would be inappropriate to ignore the latest in **Michael Jordan** lore. This season's entry is a double whammy—a steal from **Karl Malone** and a game-winning shot to secure his team's third consecutive NBA championship.

MOST BONEHEADED PLAY

Alonzo Mourning's attack on **Larry Johnson** in the fourth game of their Eastern Conference playoff series could not have been more ill-timed. The Knicks and Heat were under close scrutiny after their brawl of the previous year. Any fisticuffs, wrestling or belligerence was sure to mean suspensions, something that neither



The Chicago Bulls have won three consecutive championships and six of the last eight titles.



Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa brought more attention to baseball this season than did any other sports figure.

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The Best and Worst of 1998

team could afford with a deciding fifth game looming a couple of days later. Yet although there was just a second left in the game, Mourning, Miami's best player, lost his temper and tried to punch Johnson. His suspension may have cost Miami the series.

BEST PERFORMANCE (TEAM)

France did not seem to have the talent to offer much of a challenge to defending champion Brazil in the World Cup final. It lacked a really great scorer and was missing its best interior defender, who'd been redcarded in the semis. But those weaknesses in its lineup were not the least noticeable, as France dominated the action. Its defense, which had surrendered just two goals entering the contest, completely handcuffed Brazil's potent offense. Brazil managed only one really good chance and French goalkeeper **Fabien Barthez** smothered it. Meanwhile, the offense struck twice in the first half on set plays and then provided an exquisite coup de grace in the game's waning seconds. With better forwards, who botched a slew of scoring opportunities, it might have won by more than 3-0.

WORST PERFORMANCE (TEAM)

To adopt a phrase, Utah wasn't just bad against Chicago in the third game of the NBA championship series, it was historically bad. The Jazz lost 96-54. Its 54 points represented the fewest since the advent of the 24-second clock in 1954. Utah hit just 21-70 shots from the field and scored only 23 points in the second half. Subtract **Karl Malone**'s 8-11 shooting and the Jazz were worse than pathetic. Indeed, Jazz players, a supposedly tough bunch, seemed to give up early in the second half.

BEST COMEBACK (GAME)

Kentucky trailed Duke by 17 points with a little over nine minutes remaining in their regional final at the NCAA championships. The Wildcats clawed their way back with a frenetic defense that rattled the Blue Devils, a team that rarely loses its poise. Later in the year, the WNBA Houston Comets got mad and then got even at one game apiece in their series with the Phoenix Mercury. The Comets started pressing the Mercury and playing with an energy they had been missing. They ran off 13 straight points to take a one-point lead, survived a last-second shot by Phoenix, and won in overtime. Houston then captured the series finale.

BEST COMEBACK (SEASON)

After finishing with just 20 wins in 1997-98, the San Antonio Spurs had something to prove. They did, winning 56 games to enjoy the greatest turnaround in NBA history. Yet the Spurs' season was hardly surprising. They welcomed back **David Robinson**, who'd been injured the previous season, and added **Tim Duncan**, who became the Rookie of the Year and gave the team the league's best inside combination.

WORST COLLAPSE

The Florida Marlins didn't even bother trying to mount a reasonable defense of their World Series triumph. More interested in the franchise's bottom line than fielding a strong team, Marlins' management began dismantling the roster well before the season began. The result was eventually the smallest payroll in baseball and the major league's worst record. Florida was out of the playoff running within a month and finished with a worse record than the expansion Arizona Diamondbacks and Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

BEST COACHED GAME

Arizona was a heavy favorite to defeat Utah in their third-round NCAA tournament game. It was the defending champion and had been ranked at or near the top of the college basketball rankings for the entire season. But Utah coach **Rick Majerus** wasn't intimidated and worked out a brilliant game plan. On defense he had his team focus on stopping Arizona's high-scoring backcourt of **Mike Bibby** and **Miles Simon**. On offense he asked his players to work the ball inside. Majerus' tactics worked beautifully, as Utah thrashed Arizona in one of the biggest upsets of the year.

WORST COACHED GAME

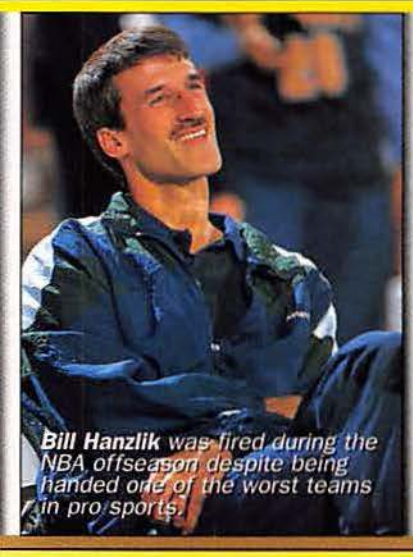
Normally Duke coach **Mike Krzyzewski** is a step ahead of the opposition. But Krzyzewski blundered in his team's NCAA-tournament defeat to Kentucky, leaving his team without a timeout for the last five minutes. The Blue Devils could have used their coach's guidance. They frittered away a 17-point lead and saw Kentucky's winning basket fall in the final seconds. Meanwhile, **Steve Sampson** undermined his team's chances against Germany, its opening foe in the World Cup, with a series of questionable personnel moves that angered his players.

BEST COMEBACK (PLAYER)

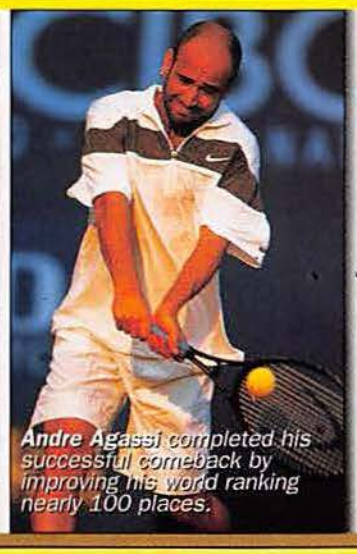
He'd broken down in tears at one point in his disheartening 1997, and gone down to the tennis equivalent of the minor leagues to try to regain his confidence. But a rejuvenated **Andre Agassi** bounced back in 1998. A month into the year he'd reached the fourth round of the Australian Open. By the U.S. Open he'd won several tournaments and boosted his world ranking from triple digits to the top 10. Still, the comeback was not entirely unexpected. Agassi has spent much of his career losing and regaining his motivation and ranking.

BEST FANS

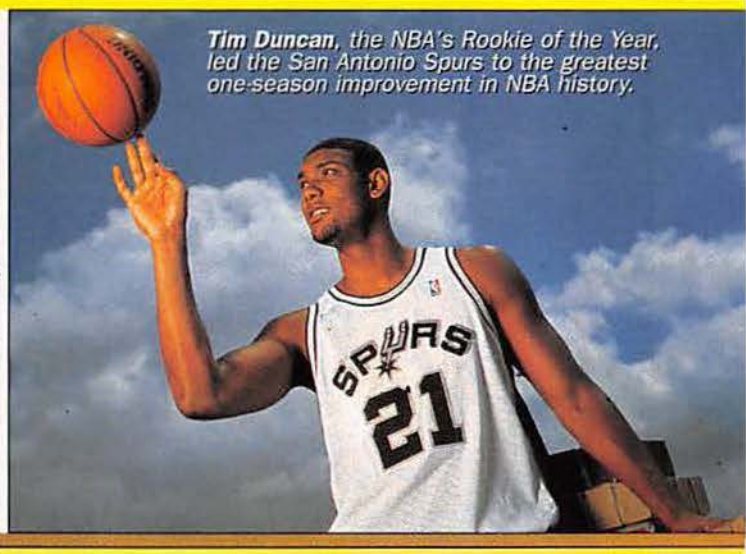
Their team could barely win a game, but Washington Mystics fans seemingly couldn't care. They packed their arena at nearly every home game, giving a WNBA team that managed only three wins in 30 games the most unlikely—and undeserving—support of any professional team. Nebraska fans deserve a lifetime achieve-



Bill Hanzlik was fired during the NBA offseason despite being handed one of the worst teams in pro sports.



Andre Agassi completed his successful comeback by improving his world ranking nearly 100 places.



Tim Duncan, the NBA's Rookie of the Year, led the San Antonio Spurs to the greatest one-season improvement in NBA history.

The Best and Worst of 1998

ment award. They've sold out home games for years, and follow their team wherever they are on the road.

WORST FANS

While the fans who corralled **Mark McGwire**'s 60th, 61st and 62nd home runs were a decent lot who handed him the balls, a slew of others were not so nice. They tried to elbow and punch their way to a McGwire or **Sammy Sosa** moonshot, hoping that the balls would net them a big reward. Some who were lucky openly talked of negotiating with the players. What a shame. How greedy. Meanwhile, boxing entourages seemed to continue growing—both in size and outlandishness. How unfortunate that fighters today don't emulate the old masters, who walked to the ring with a trainer, a second and a bucket. Somewhere **Rocky Marciano** and **Sugar Ray Robinson** must be gritting their teeth at the sheer number of people—young women all dolled-up, hustlers and hangers-on—who turn boxing events into performance art.

BEST TV COVERAGE

When **John Madden** is in the house, NFL football is a joy to behold. **John McEnroe** and **Mary Carillo** make any tennis tournament more interesting. NBC sorely missed the wit of the disgraced **Marv Albert**, but nevertheless did a solid job of televising NBA games.

WORST TV COVERAGE

Granted, covering an event in a country whose mornings begin even before we turn the lights out the previous day is difficult. But CBS has no excuse for its reliance on videotape for events it could have televised live, and the number of commercials was enough to detract from even the dramatic figure skating showdown between **Michelle Kwan** and **Tara Lipinski**. The World Cup feed from France also wasn't much of a treat for viewers—although ESPN and ABC were blameless for the bizarre and frustrating changes of camera angle.

BEST COMMERCIAL

During the more boring, meaningless games—Japan-Jamaica, South Africa-Saudi Arabia, U.S.-Yugoslavia, to name three—the best part of watching the World Cup was Nike's depiction of a bored Brazilian national team waiting out a flight delay. The Brazilians seemed to use every inch of the airport as an impromptu soccer field, feinting security guards and amusing other waiting passengers until **Ronaldo** cracked a shot off a made-up goal post. The timing of the action, the ball tricks, and the background music were all wonderfully interwoven to create a sports/music video.

MOST TASTELESS COMMERCIAL

It's difficult to believe that the company responsible for the commercial with joyous, dazzling Brazilians could create an ad as tasteless as the volleyball player saving a choking fellow restaurant patron. The volleyball player performs a sort of Heimlich maneuver by spiking the choking man in the middle of his back and forcing him to spit out a piece of meat. It is a disturbing image—but no less so than an Adidas spot that finds the Pittsburgh Steelers' **Kordell Stewart** throwing newspapers and wreaking havoc on a neighborhood. One of Stewart's tosses sends a golden retriever flying. Another toss takes off the arm of a neighbor. It isn't as if there's a lack of violence on television. What were these companies thinking?

BIGGEST BREAKTHROUGH

It was just a regular-season game, although perhaps a little more important than some as befits a meeting of nationally ranked rivals. But by defeating Kentucky on the road 73-64, Mississippi turned the game into a special occasion. Mississippi had not won at Kentucky since 1927 and had triumphed only once there in 44 tries. Mississippi opened up a nice lead and thwarted every comeback before the usual diehard Kentucky following of some 23,000. "To come in and quiet a crowd like this is really exciting," said Mississippi guard **Michael White**.

SECOND-BIGGEST BREAKTHROUGH

No luge jokes here please. The sport requires fearlessness, a skintight, shiny suit and ultra-strong stomach muscles. Anyway, if luge was so easy, why had no American ever won an Olympic medal in the sport until this year when **Gordy Sheer** and **Chris Thorpe**, and **Mark Grimmette** and **Brian Martin** took silver and bronze in the doubles competition.

THIRD-BIGGEST BREAKTHROUGH

She'd cried on the Duchess of Kent's shoulder after blowing a big lead in an earlier Wimbledon final. Shoddy nerves had sabotaged her in a slew of other important matches. But in this year's Wimbledon final, the Czech Republic's **Jana Novotna** was not about to let another chance for a major title slip away. She played with poise in beating France's **Nathalie Tauziat**, 6-4, 7-6.

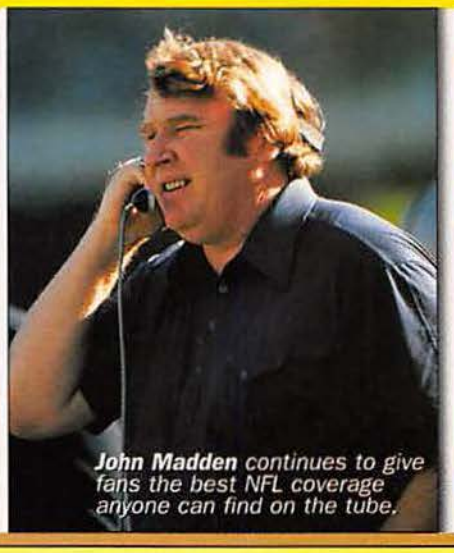
LEAST-DESIRED BREAKTHROUGH

For three years **Pete Sampras** had stood at the top of the world rankings. But a disappointing start to 1998 cost him valuable ranking points and opened the way for **Marcelo Rios**, the talented and enigmatic Chilean left-hander, to bump him from his perch in early April.

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

Only twice before has there been anything even mildly resembling the home run race between **Mark McGwire** and **Sammy Sosa**. In 1927, **Babe Ruth** and **Lou Gehrig** put on a long ball exhibition that

***Jana Novotna** is rewarded for her Wimbledon victory by the Duchess of Kent.*


***John Madden** continues to give fans the best NFL coverage anyone can find on the tube.*

***Ronaldo**'s skill shines in a recent Nike comme*

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exceeded everything until another pair of Yankee teammates, **Roger Maris** and **Mickey Mantle**, dueled for power-hitting honors. But in each of these cases, only one player—Ruth and Maris—broke 60 home runs. McGwire and Sosa both reached this magic number in the most remarkable contest any sport in this country has seen.

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT

Bobsled has never been Americans' Olympic forte, but U.S. driver **Brian Shimer** figured he could change this tradition. From the 1980s on, he had made a bobsled medal his quest. In the end, a couple of mistakes near the end of his final run at Nagano left Shimer's four-man team just .02 seconds away from a bronze, and heartbroken.

BEST OPENING OF A STORY

Mike Penner of the *Los Angeles Times* captured both the brilliance of **Ilia Kulik**'s gold medal performance in Olympic men's figure skating and the absurdity of his shiny yellow and black-spotted shirt in this enjoyable passage: "They said giraffes would fly before **Elvis Stojko** won an Olympic gold medal, and that's exactly what happened Saturday night at the quadrennial animation festival known as the Olympic men's figure skating long program.

"Kulik, a 20-year-old Russian who defies the laws of physics as well as the concept of dressing for success, won the championship by spending more time in the air than your average commuter flight, landing one quadruple and eight triple jumps while wearing his infamous giraffe-spotted rain slicker, believed to be on loan from the Moscow Zoo."

MOST GIVING ATHLETE

Don't mistake us: we know that **John Elway** wouldn't do anything he couldn't afford to. Still, his agreeing to two salary cuts that brought him down to a paltry $300,000 for the 1998-99 season raises an interesting point: Why can't more players who are similarly well off do the same thing to help their teams?

GREEDIEST ATHLETE

Among professional sports prospects, the success of baseball players is the most difficult to predict. Neither athletic ability nor success at lower levels guarantees a great major league career. That makes **J.D. Drew**'s contract negotiations with Philadelphia and St. Louis all the more brazen than if he'd been a football or hockey player. Drew, the number one pick in the 1997 baseball draft, would not accept the Phillies' $6-million offer, and entered the 1998 draft. St. Louis picked him and gave him the $10 million he was looking for.

WORST PREDICTION

Here was the vow from Seattle Mariners' president **Chuck Armstrong** less than two months before he shipped his ace pitcher **Randy Johnson** to the Houston Astros: "Randy will pitch for the Mariners throughout this season. Accordingly, we have no plans to trade Randy Johnson."

BEST FINISH

Movies don't create endings any better than Valparaiso's buzzer-beating victory over Mississippi in the first round of the NCAA men's basketball tournament. Down 2 points with 2.5 seconds remaining, Valparaiso's **Jamie Sykes**, an outfield prospect for the Arizona Diamondbacks, threw a perfect pass to **Billy Jenkins**, who touched the ball over to **Bryce Drew**. Drew, the team's star, let fly, and his leaning 3-point shot from the right side went in as time expired. Valparaiso, which was seeded 14th, was not expected to get that close against third-seeded Mississippi. But **Homer Drew**, Bryce's father, had his team playing as well as it had all year. Of the game-winning shot, which came off a play he had designed and had his team practice—though with little success—he said "it truly was a miracle shot."

STRANGEST STATEMENT

At least NBA teams that shave their heads don't have to go through the trouble of finding the right color. Figuring that any sign of solidarity would help its chances, Romania's national soccer team bleached their hair blond for their final World Cup games. Alas, the color didn't quite work for the players. After winning its first-round group, Romania lost to upstart Croatia.

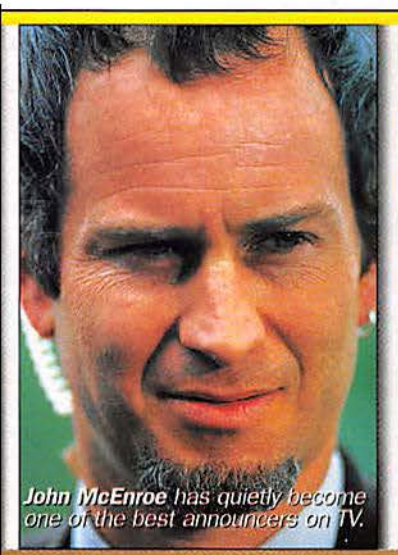
BEST ANNOUNCER

A few years ago, this publication placed **John McEnroe** in the same category as **Brent Musberger**. McEnroe didn't seem to do much reporting about the matches he was calling, and he talked incessantly—often to the distraction of viewers. That was a different McEnroe. Now he's so good, you hope the matches go on so you can listen to him. McEnroe is one of those rare announcers who can simultaneously entertain and inform you. He's fearlessly opinionated, possesses a comic's timing with a dig, and doesn't mind laughing at himself. McEnroe's outspokenness is not for everyone, but what commentator doesn't have detractors? He's good. It would be nice to see him conduct a few interviews and put together a feature or two.

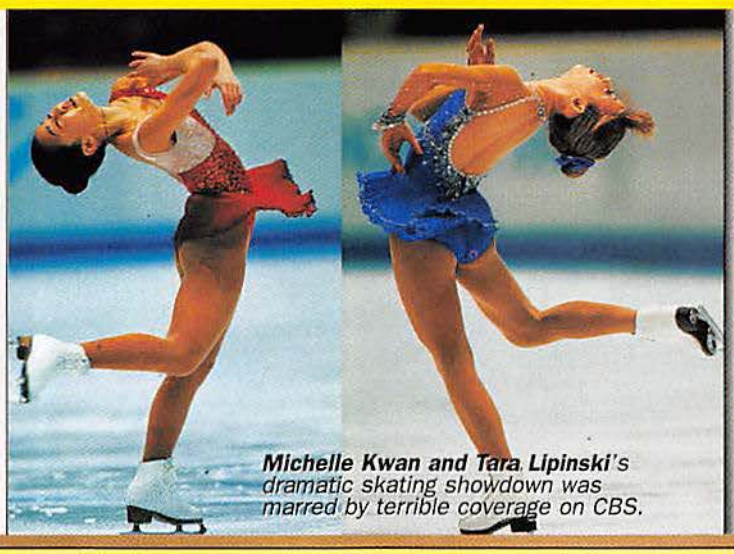
WORST ANNOUNCER

(The Musberger Award)

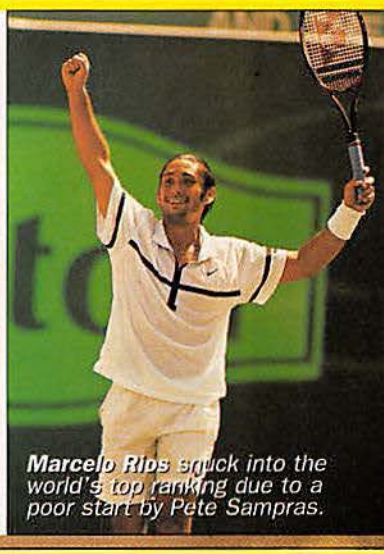
If **Brent Musberger** ever calls himself a journalist, someone should sue him for dishonesty. He's good at gushing about players and coaches. But he shows little evidence of preparing for the games he's covering and he's so out of touch with the action that sometimes you wonder if he's paying attention.



***John McEnroe** has quietly become one of the best announcers on TV.*



***Michelle Kwan and Tara Lipinski**'s dramatic skating showdown was marred by terrible coverage on CBS.*



***Marcelo Rios** snuck into the world's top ranking due to a poor start by Pete Sampras.*

The Best and Worst of 1998

BEST TRADE

When the Yankees acquired **Scott Brosius** from the Oakland Athletics, they figured that they'd helped themselves defensively. Brosius was coming off an off-year at the plate but was a fine fielder. In New York, he quickly showed that he was as capable with his bat as with his glove, and earned a berth on the American League All-Star team. Moreover, his exceptional, all-around play helped New York build one of the best records in major league history. Meanwhile, Houston's mid-season acquisition of **Randy Johnson** gave the playoff-bound Astros the staff ace they had craved. Five weeks after arriving, Johnson outpitched **Greg Maddux**. Overall for Houston, he won ten of eleven starts and posted an ERA of 1.28.

BIGGEST BUST

After bulking up their bullpen, and with one of baseball's best offenses, the Seattle Mariners were supposed to have everything in place for a run at the pennant. But the anticipated success never materialized. Seattle's pitching was horrendous. It blew a season's worth of saves in the first two months and languished near the bottom of the American League West throughout the season, finishing 76-85, just 2½ games ahead of Oakland.

MOST HEART

They seemed lost against Duke, trailed Stanford and lagged behind Utah. But when the NCAA tournament ended, Kentucky was champion. The Wildcats were at their spirited best against Duke as they overcame a 17-point deficit in the final 9:38. But they also erased 10-point holes against Stanford and Utah. **Lee Janzen** also deserves kudos after coming from seven strokes down on the final day to win his second U.S. Open.

LEAST HEART

Chile's **Marcelo Rios** may have replaced **Pete Sampras** as the world's top tennis player. But he ranks way down the list in fighting spirit. Indeed, it is never certain whether Rios is going to play hard. Uncomfortable on Wimbledon's grass, Rios never tried to adapt his game and lost in the first round. Then, during the American hardcourt season, he seemed only half interested in his matches, losing to journeyman players a world No. 1 should handle easily, and falling in the third round of the U.S. Open.

BIGGEST HYPE

Tiger Woods owns this award until America's next great sporting phenom comes along. Indeed, Woods has spawned his own cottage industry of literature and television stories about him. As is so often the case, Woods' achievements were significantly less than the hype. Woods played consistently but did not win a major title. Moreover, he did not seem all that interesting.

LEAST HYPE

Marion Jones, track and field's most dominating athlete this year, barely made it out of the small type while she was running some of the fastest times in the history of the women's 100-meter dash. The lack of attention simply underscored how little Americans think about track and field, except during Olympic years.

HAPPIEST MOMENT

The relatively easy-going **Scottie Pippen** broke down and cried when Chicago won its latest championship. He had struggled with injuries and feuded with Chicago management all season. **Jana Novotna** was also weepy when she finally won Wimbledon at the relatively advanced tennis age of 29. Novotna's triumph was a wonderful moment for any athlete who has come close to winning a big event for years and finally comes through.

SADDEST MOMENT

It is difficult not to root for **John Daly** as he tries to overcome alcoholism. The talented golfer's struggles at the Vancouver Open were the most heart-wrenching yet. Late in the first round, Daly got the shakes, a not uncommon problem for recovering alcoholics, and started crying uncontrollably. Daly tried to get warm by putting on extra clothes, but couldn't and needed comforting from his playing partners.

MOST IMPRESSIVE STREAK

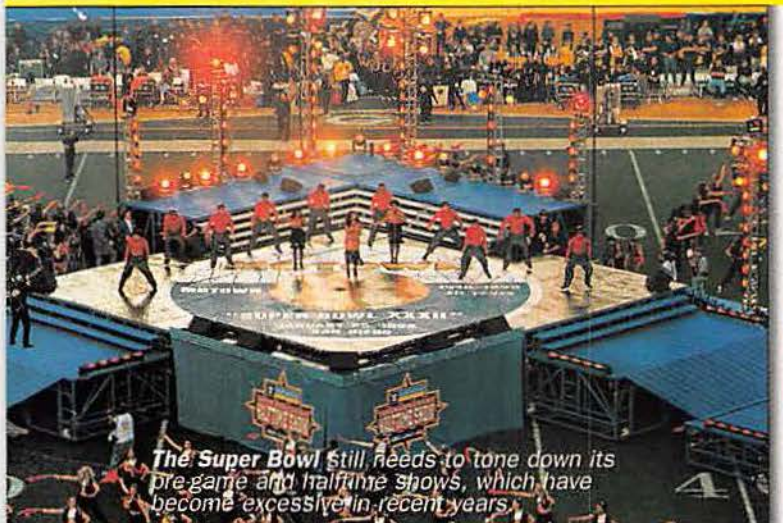
It's difficult to choose between the Chicago Bulls and University of Tennessee's women's basketball. Both have won three championships against a long list of worthy challengers. The Bulls struggled this year, which made their success all the more rewarding. The Lady Vols wiped out the competition in the most impressive season in women's college basketball history.

BEST EVENT

We're lukewarm about soccer and Winter Olympic sports, but these two events provide two of the rare opportunities for the world to share an experience. While this may seem like a hokey reason to like an event, think of a better one at a time when peoples too often consider their differences, while forgetting what bind them to one another. Sports are one bond. Doubt that and then consider, for example, the poignant image of U.S. and Iranian teams posing together before their World Cup match.

WORST EVENT

This year's game was at least a competitive one, but the Super Bowl still owns this category. The pre-game and halftime shows get longer and sillier by the year—as do the commercials. In fact, the casual viewer might believe that ads and entertainers are the main event and that the action is only an afterthought.



The Super Bowl still needs to tone down its pre-game and halftime shows, which have become excessive in recent years.

Lee Janzen made an impressive seven-stroke recovery to win the U.S. Open.

Scott Brosius gave New York more with the bat than they could have imagined.

PHOTO CREDITS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT, ANDREW REDDINGTON/ALLSPORT, DAVID SEELIG/ALLSPORT

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The Top 50 Stories of 1998

1. The Great Maris Chase

Mark McGwire hits his 62nd home run to break **Roger Maris'** major league record for home runs in a season, only to be tied five days later by **Sammy Sosa**. Both stay neck-and-neck until the final week of the season, when McGwire pulls out in front to seize baseball's ultimate record.

2. Bulls-eye

The Chicago Bulls capture their third consecutive NBA championship and sixth in eight years.

3. Michael Jordan

Will he or won't he? We wish we had a nickel for every story that speculated on whether the greatest player in basketball history would retire.

4. Finally the Broncos

The Denver Broncos ride their inspirational quarterback **John Elway** and a powerhouse running game to a shocking Super Bowl upset of the Green Bay Packers.

5. THE STREAK ENDS

Cal Ripken Jr. pulls himself out of the lineup minutes before Baltimore's final home game against New York, ending his consecutive-games streak at 2,632.

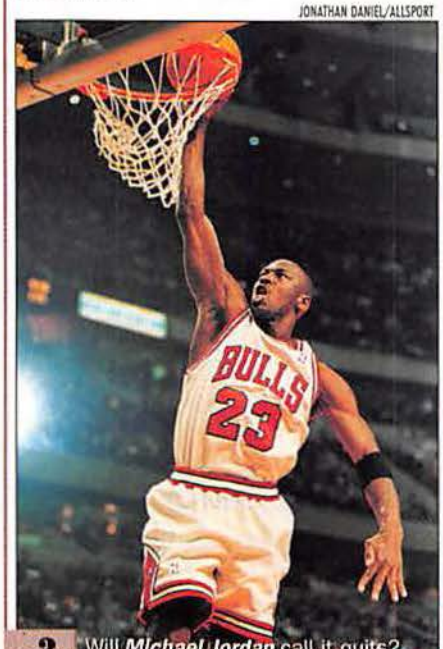
6. Huskerines

Nebraska? Michigan? Both! The Cornhuskers and Wolverines share the college football national championship, underlining the need in some circles for a national championship tournament.

7. Ol' Kentucky

New coach, same result: **Tubby Smith** takes over from **Rick Pitino** and leads a gutsy, resilient Kentucky team to its second national basketball championship in three years.

JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT



3. Will *Michael Jordan* call it quits?

8. Oui!

France upsets Brazil 3-0 to capture its first World Cup, sending a joyous nation into the streets for the biggest celebration since the end of World War II.

9. Winging It

The Detroit Red Wings overcome tragedy and the inevitable ups and downs of a defending champion's life to repeat their Stanley Cup triumph.

10. Lipinski Trumps Kwan

Tara Lipinski, the tiny dynamo from Texas, skates a near perfect long program to wrest the gold medal from her favored teammate **Michelle Kwan**, who had defeated her at the U.S. national championships just a month earlier.

11. O'Meara For Two

At age 41, **Mark O'Meara** becomes the oldest player to win two Grand Slam titles in one year when he takes the Masters and the British Open.

12. Commissioner Selig

By a unanimous vote—a troubling sign in itself—baseball finally removes the interim from **Bud Selig**'s title and names the former Milwaukee Brewers' owner as commissioner.

13. Perfecto

New York Yankees' left-hander **David Wells** becomes just the 13th player in major league history to throw a perfect game.

14. NBA Troubles

The model pro sports league struggles with on-court fighting, off-court squabbling, declining attendance, image problems and a summer lockout that keeps NBA players from representing their country at the World Championships.

15. World Cup Violence

German, Dutch and English soccer hooligans invaded France more to cause trouble than watch their teams, and turned streets into war zones. German thugs tied to right-wing extremist groups beat one French policeman into a coma.

16. Break Up the Yankees

While they did not have a flamboyant nickname like Murderer's Row or a player to rival the celebrity of **Babe Ruth**, **Joe DiMaggio** or **Mickey Mantle**, this year's New York Yankees proved just as difficult to beat as the other great teams in the franchise's storied history.

17. Near-Triple Crown

Real Quiet wins the Kentucky Derby and Preakness and seems on his way to the Triple Crown when **Victory Gallop** catches him at the wire to take the Belmont.

18. Golden Retirement

Jack Nicklaus, the greatest golfer in history, snaps his streak of consecutive majors at 154 and announces that he will retire from the sport in the year 2000.

19. Sampras, Novotna Win Wimbledon

The Czech Republic's **Jana Novotna** defeats **Nathalie Tauziat** to banish the demons of past Wimbledons lost; while **Pete Sampras** tops **Goran Ivanisevic** in five sets to collect his fifth title at the All-England Club.

20. Women's World Championship

Lisa Leslie, the world's best woman basketball player, leads the U.S. to a convincing triumph at the World Championship.

21. National League's Best

The Atlanta Braves and surprising San Diego Padres and Houston Astros wage a furious fight for the National League's best record and homefield advantage in the playoffs. Atlanta would finally earn the honor.

22. Bad Behavior

It seemed as if some athlete—college and professional—was breaking some rule or law every day; in fact, the surest way to keep track of a favorite player was to read the police blotter.

23. RANDY Johnson Sweepstakes

Who would it be? The discontented Seattle left-hander was rumored to be headed to Cleveland or New York before he wound up in Houston.

24. Maier's Wild Rides

Austria's **Hermann Maier**, perhaps the greatest alpine skier in history, recovers from a frightening fall in the downhill to win two gold medals at the Winter Olympics.

ELSA HASCH/ALLSPORT

1. *MARK McGWIRE* sets HR record

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How is this possible? Strat-O-Matic Pro Basketball is actually two versions in one - basic and advanced. The basic game is simple and exciting to play, and the advanced game is the "real thing." Both versions contain that all important rhythmic feeling of Pro Basketball. And most important - both versions are contained in each set of Strat-O-Matic.

The realism of Strat-O-Matic is uncanny. Even minute details such as rest and injuries are calculated. Yes, even switches occur in Strat-O-Matic Pro Basketball. Imagine your six foot guard defending your opposing team's big guy. In addition, the home court advantage is a significant factor in Strat-O-Matic just as it is in the NBA. If you coach lowly Vancouver, beware of long road trips. Vancouver's chances of beating Chicago at the United Center are "slimmer than slim."

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25. No-Score Hockey
Defensive hockey and low scores carry the day in the NHL, much to the chagrin of league officials who see dwindling television audiences.

26. U.S. Washout
Expecting to reach the second round, the United States national soccer team loses all three of its games to finish last at the World Cup.

27. Babe Ruth's Anniversary
It seemed fitting that the 50th anniversary of the Babe's death would correspond with the year of the great home run chase.

28. Notre Dame's Troubles
A former assistant coach wins an $86,000 judgment against the university after a nasty trial that included allegations that the present coach **Bob Davie** had backstabbed his way to his present job.

29. Baseball Fights
Baseball may have gained back its popularity, but a series of nasty brawls, including New York-Baltimore and Kansas City-Anaheim, detracts from all the good feeling surrounding the sport.

30. Speedy Marion Jones
The world's best women's sprinter continues her long streak of wins and adds a few long jump titles to the mix.

31. Harry Caray and Jim Murray Die
The death of Caray, the Cubs' beloved announcer, sends Chicago into mourning; Murray's passing saddens Southern Californians who'd grown up reading his brilliant columns.

32. Comets Repeat
The WNBA caps its second successful season just as it finished the first with **Cynthia Cooper** leading Houston to a championship—this time over the Phoenix Mercury.

33. Consistent Jazz
No, they definitely weren't too old; Utah finished with the NBA's best record and once again gave Chicago fits in the league's championship series.

34. Marlins' Demise
It would have been nice to see if **Jim Leyland** could have wrung another World Series win from Florida; but ownership never gives him a chance, dismantling the team. In doing so, Florida raises questions about the demise of loyalty that teams used to have for their fans and fans for their teams.

35. A Quest and Success
The Columbus Quest overcome a 2-0 deficit to defeat the expansion Long Beach StingRays and defend their women's American Basketball League championship.

36. Tour de France Highs and Lows
The favored team is disqualified after its coach admits that his riders take performance-enhancing drugs. Six other teams withdraw from the race amidst suggestions of widespread drug use in the cycling world. Meanwhile, **Marco Pantini** becomes the first Italian in more than three decades to win the race and America's **Bobby Julich** records the highest finish—third—since **Greg LeMond** won the Tour in 1990.

37. FLO-JO DIES
Beloved Olympic runner Florence Griffith-Joyner dies at age 38 of a heart seizure. She defined women's sports in America with her inimitable personal style.

38. Mike Tyson's Demons
Boxing's once fiercest competitor became a sad sideshow in an already troubled sport as he loses his temper at a hearing to determine if he should regain his boxing license.

39. Father, Father...
A *Sports Illustrated* article focuses on a long-standing problem among professional athletes who have fathered a number of children out of wedlock and not assumed responsibility for their offspring. Among the athletes listed in the story are **Shawn Kemp**, **Larry Johnson** and former star **Larry Bird**.

40. New Golf Star
At just 20 years old, Korea's **Se Ri Pak** becomes the first player in nearly two decades to win two major championships in the same year; a week later, Pak also ties an LPGA record for scoring.

41. Baseline Power
Marcelo Rios, a 5-foot-9 Chilean, displaces **Pete Sampras** at the top of the men's professional tennis rankings; meanwhile, Spain's **Carlos Moya**, the winner of the French Open, and a host of his countrymen dominate the European claycourt circuit.

42. Larry Legend's Handiwork
The Indiana Pacers seem like a team on the slide until **Larry Bird** takes over as coach and leads them to an Eastern Conference seventh game against the Chicago Bulls.

43. The Williams Sisters
Venus and **Serena Williams** move onward and upward in the women's tennis rankings and provide tennis with some needed charisma.

44. Master Jack
Augusta dedicates a plaque to **Jack Nicklaus**, who promptly plays like a younger version of himself and finishes sixth at the Masters.

45. Peyton's Place/ Ryan's Hopeful
Quarterbacks are wild in the first round of the NBA draft, as **Peyton Manning** and **Ryan Leaf** are selected with the top two picks.

46. Bulls' Break-up
The media may have run the story ad nauseam, but with **Phil Jackson**'s departure, it indeed looks as if the three-time NBA champion Chicago Bulls are finally breaking up.

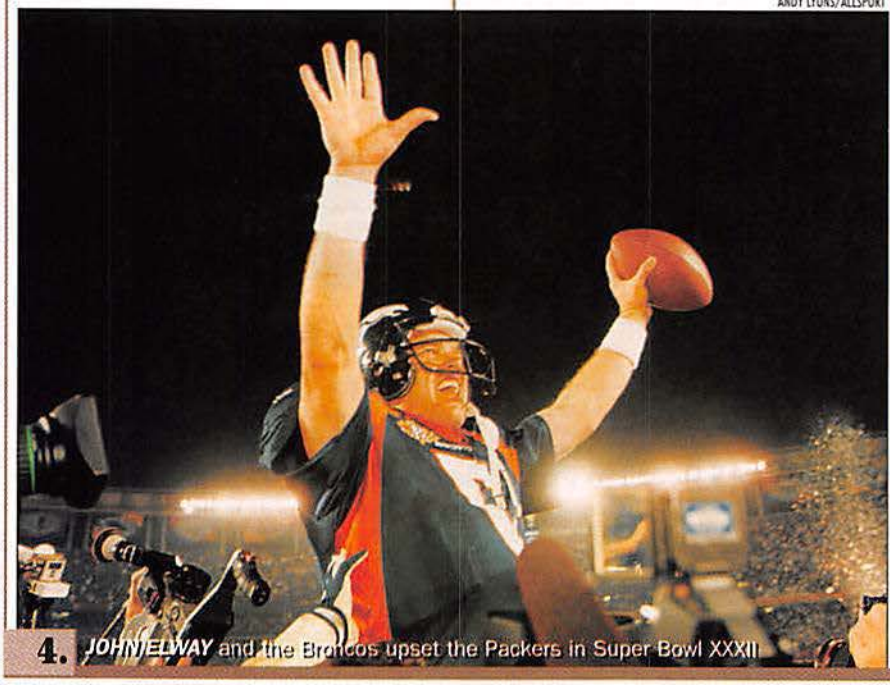
47. Janzen's Open
Lee Janzen remains calm as scores balloon on the typically rugged U.S. Open course and wins the tournament for the second time.

48. Clap skates
Speedskating world records tumble at Nagano as skaters donned the remarkable clap skates.

49. Picabo Street
Still recovering from a serious knee injury when the year begins, Street dons downhill skis for the super-giant slalom and wins the only U.S. Alpine skiing gold at the Winter Olympics.

50. Czech Gold
The Czech Republic enters the Winter Olympics hockey tournament with the fewest NHL players on its roster but the best goaltender in the world and shocks the U.S., Canada and Russia to win the gold medal.

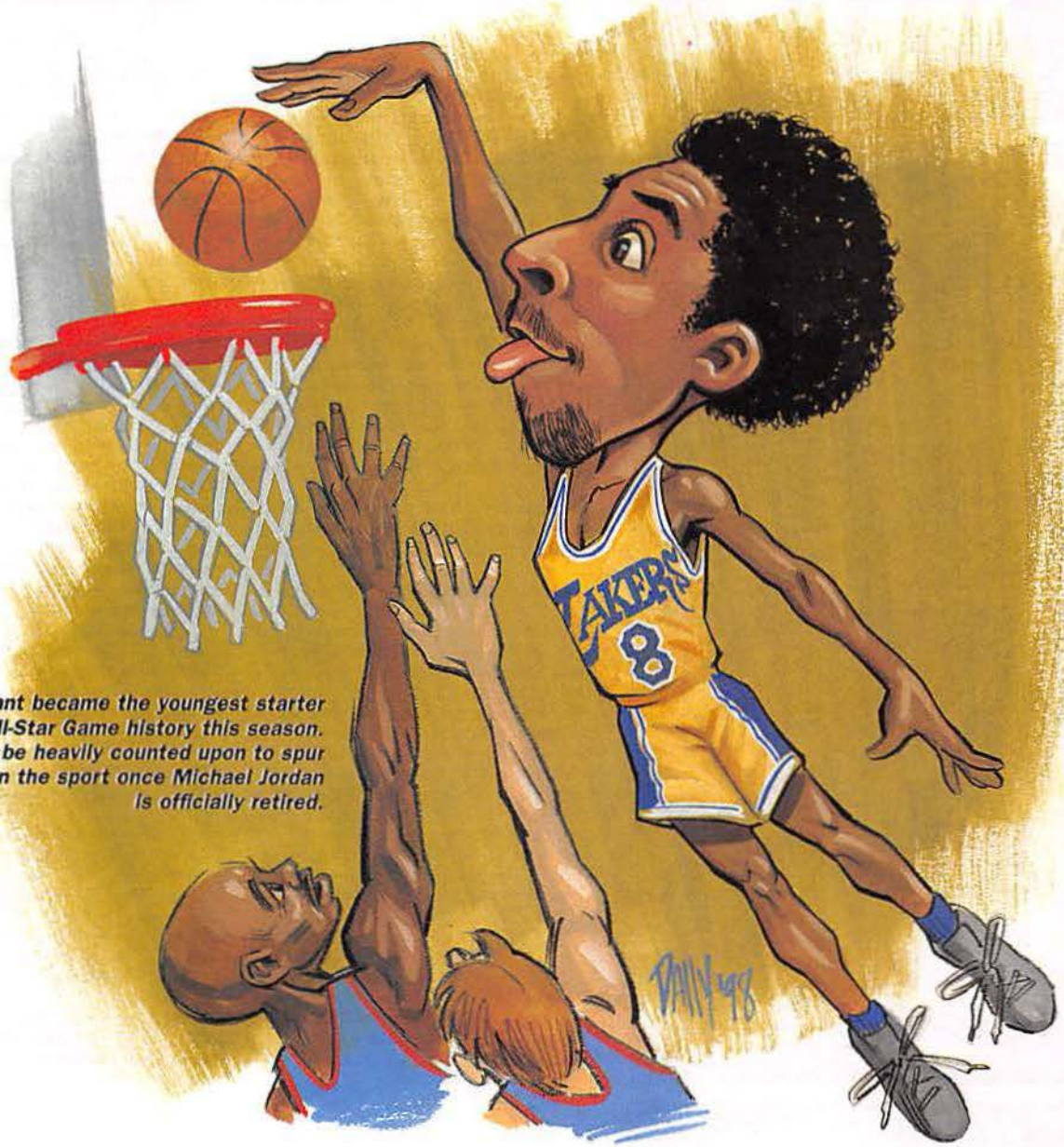
ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT



4. **JOHN ELWAY** and the Broncos upset the Packers in Super Bowl XXXII

THE NATIONAL SPORTS REVIEW

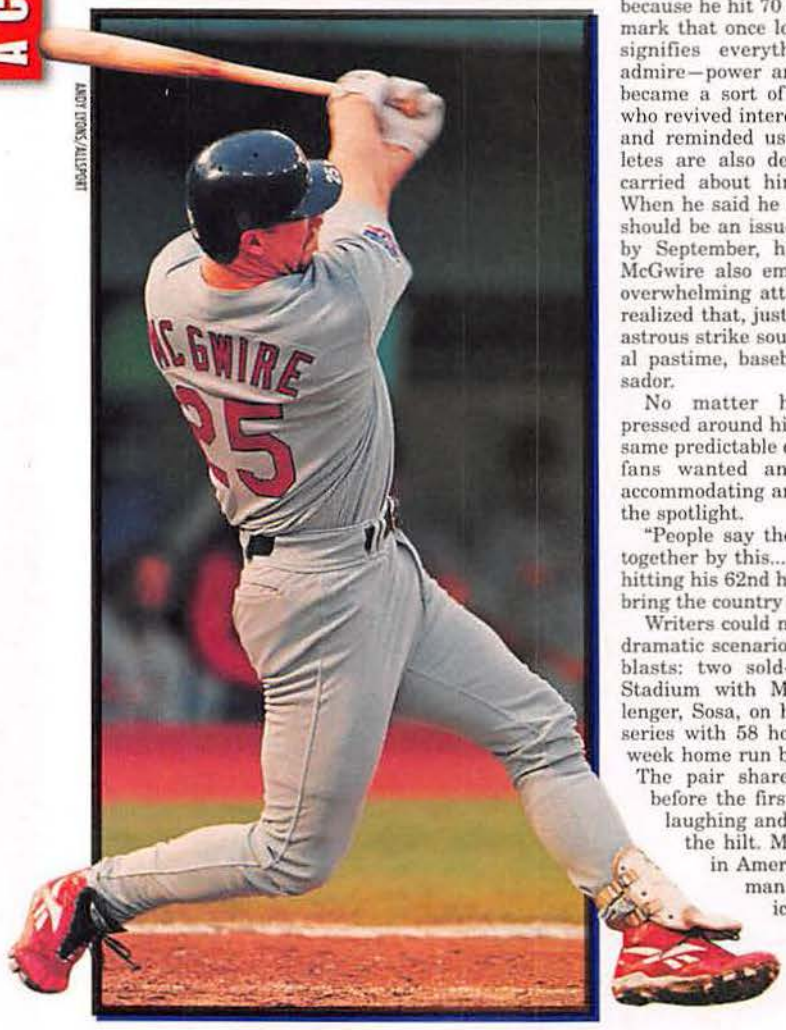
Accolades



Kobe Bryant became the youngest starter in NBA All-Star Game history this season. He'll be heavily counted upon to spur interest in the sport once Michael Jordan is officially retired.

Athletes of the Year

MALE



ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT

Mark McGwire

Mark McGwire may have a song written about him one day. Something befitting a real-life or mythical figure who is supposed to personify achievement that does not seem humanly possible.

The song will make McGwire bigger and stronger than he is; compare his powerhouse swings to the mightiest machines; overstate the length of his mammoth home runs and the depth of his kindness:

"How far did his homers travel?
A mile maybe two.
Clipped the Arch,
Skimmed the Mississippi
How nice was he?
Gave all his money to charity."

Forgive us if we don't rhyme and if we stretch the truth. Songwriting isn't our bag. But we know a genuine folk hero when we see one. Apologies to Sammy Sosa, this year's other home run king, our choice for Athlete of the Year is Mark McGwire.

The St. Louis slugger beat Sosa to one of baseball's most hallowed records, Roger Maris' 61 home runs in a season. McGwire coincidentally hit both his record-tying and record-breaking blasts against Sosa's Cubs.

McGwire earns our nod not only because he hit 70 home runs to shatter a mark that once looked unbreakable and signifies everything that Americans admire—power and success. Rather, he became a sort of larger-than-life figure who revived interest in a disgraced sport and reminded us that some great athletes are also decent people. McGwire carried about him an air of sincerity. When he said he didn't think the record should be an issue unless he reached 50 by September, he was believable. Yet McGwire also embraced the sometimes overwhelming attention he received. He realized that, just four years after a disastrous strike soured fans on the national pastime, baseball needed an ambassador.

No matter how many reporters pressed around his locker to ask him the same predictable questions, or how many fans wanted an autograph, he was accommodating and candid—dignified in the spotlight.

"People say the country was brought together by this... so be it," he said after hitting his 62nd home run. "I'm happy to bring the country together."

Writers could not have plotted a more dramatic scenario for McGwire's historic blasts: two sold-out games at Busch Stadium with McGwire's closest challenger, Sosa, on hand. Sosa entered the series with 58 home runs. After a two-week home run binge, McGwire had 60. The pair shared a press conference before the first of the games, joking, laughing and praising each other to the hilt. McGwire was "the man" in America, but Sosa was "the man" in his native Dominican Republic, said Sosa.

"Your heart's not beating if you're not excited about today and tomorrow," said McGwire.

A few hours later, he was rounding the bases after cracking a huge drive off the Plexiglas-enclosed restaurant in leftfield. Flashbulbs popped as the event was recorded for 50,000 scrapbooks. The crowd, which had been standing since the beginning of his at-bat—as fans had for the previous few weeks—let loose a roar and didn't stop for several minutes. Sosa joined in the celebration, applauding his pal.

McGwire shook hands with Cubs' infielders, stepped on home plate and gave his 10-year-old son, who is a Cardinals' batboy, a huge hug. Then he was swallowed up by teammates. But before the hoopla died down, McGwire faced the family of Roger Maris, who were seated near the field, pointed to the sky and then to his heart. It was his way of acknowledging the late Maris, whose attempt to break Babe Ruth's previous home run mark of 60 was marred by unreceptive fans and mean-spirited sportswriters.

"That shows a lot of respect for what dad did," said Maris' son, Roger Jr.

The nearly 50,000 fans who jammed Busch Stadium the following evening didn't have to wait long for McGwire to break the record. In his first at-bat, McGwire slammed a vicious, curving line drive just over the leftfield wall. The homer was atypical for McGwire, traveling just 341 feet—his shortest of the season. Two-thirds of his home runs had gone over 400 feet, including five that soared over 500. McGwire ran hard to first base, thinking the ball would ricochet off the wall. When he knew that the ball had gone out, he promptly stepped over first base and had to be called back to touch it.

The ensuing celebration matched the previous night's festivities. McGwire shook hands with or hugged the Cubs' infielders. He hugged his son and told him that he loved him. He touched or was touched by every teammate; acknowledged the Cardinals' fans; and then stepped into the stands to hug the Maris family. Feeling that something good would happen, he'd touched one of Maris' bats before the game.

"I touched your father's bat today, I touched it with my heart," McGwire said.

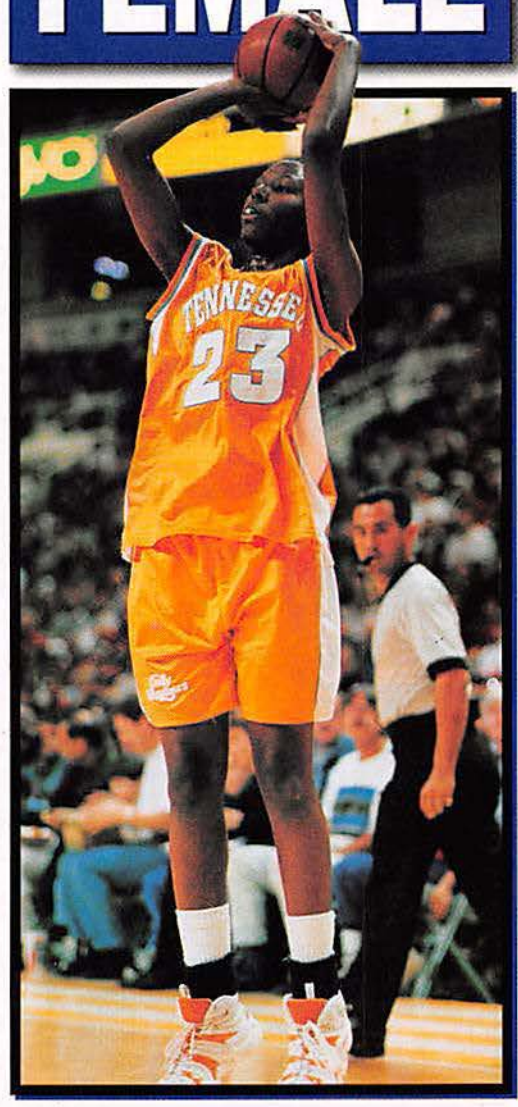
McGwire's odyssey was over. In fact, it had started two years earlier when as an Oakland Athletic he had cracked the 50-home run barrier for the first time in an injury-plagued career. Last season he hit 58 home runs and might have done better had he not endured the trauma of his first trade.

But McGwire found that he liked St. Louis and its knowledgeable fans. He finished strongly and signed a three-year contract, which gave him peace of mind. When spring training arrived, attention immediately focused on whether he could break the Maris record. In the end, McGwire admitted that the questioning took a toll.

"I don't know how heavy the (Gateway) Arch is, but I just got that off my back," he said after breaking the record.

Athletes of the Year

FEMALE



OTTO GREULE/ALLSPORT

Chamique Holdsclaw

Who to give an Athlete of the Year to in women's sports? Picabo Street overcame injury and doubts to win the United States' only Olympic Alpine gold medal. Tara Lipinski gave the performance of a lifetime to snatch the women's figure skating gold. Lisa Leslie was the best player at the women's World Basketball Championships. Cynthia Cooper won her second straight WNBA MVP award and championship. A few years ago, no such abundance of gems existed. Yet choice is good. It signifies the growth in women's sports—in both participation and recognition.

We give the award to Chamique Holdsclaw, the brightest young star in the most popular of women's sports: basketball. For the third straight season, the Tennessee forward led her team to the NCAA championship—an unprecedented run in women's college basketball (Immaculata and Delta State won three straight titles when the tournament was part of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, the former governing body of women's college sports). A few months later she finished as the third leading scorer on the United States' World Championship team. Indeed, no women's college player has ever accomplished so much so fast. One publication even posed Holdsclaw on its cover in a Knicks uniform and mused about her trying out for the NBA so she could find competition commensurate with her abilities.

And to think that, barring injury, Holdsclaw's best years are ahead of her. Pro teams in both women's leagues are eager for her help—both on the court and in marketing the game. Holdsclaw may become a Michael Jordan-like figure—a charismatic star who captures the public's fascination. Youngsters already gravitate toward her. She's articulate, modest and unfailingly patient with autograph requests. Although she could have made a small fortune by turning pro, Holdsclaw returned to Tennessee for her senior year because she promised her grandmother, who helped raise her, that she would earn a degree.

"I consider myself as a role model... a lot of little kids look up to me because of my performance on the basketball court. My responsibility, I feel, is to make them look at my contributions as a person—someone who is achieving something not just in athletics but in life. Someone who is doing the right thing off and on the court."

But first there's the business of leading Tennessee to another championship—not that any team seems capable of stopping the Lady Vols. With Holdsclaw leading the way, Tennessee has won 45 straight games. Another undefeated season seems likely.

Last season, Holdsclaw averaged 23 points and 9 rebounds. Despite a shooting slump during the NCAA tournament, she upped her average by a basket. Like all great athletes, Holdsclaw gets better as the stakes go up.

She was at her best against Western Kentucky in the second round of this year's NCAA tournament, scoring 34 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. In the final, she torched Louisiana Tech for 25 points and 10 rebounds.

In all, dating back to high school, she has won seven straight titles of one kind or another. Her Christ the King High School in Queens, N.Y., won four consecutive state championships.

Holdsclaw grew up in Queens. She learned to play basketball on the same asphalt courts that spawned a bevy of college- and pro-bound men's players. Holdsclaw quickly discovered how to hold her own against the boys. She developed a quick first step and the ability to shoot both on the run and with a player closely guarding her.

At Christ the King, one of the country's traditional high school powerhouses, she quickly established herself as the team's star. Recruiters flocked to the Catholic school. But Holdsclaw was enamored with Tennessee, the most successful program in women's college basketball. She liked Knoxville, which offered a huge contrast to New York City, and she felt that she would improve her game under coach Pat Summitt, an unrelenting taskmaster.

While Summitt is hard on newcomers—not to mention veterans—who haven't mastered her system, Holdsclaw started out as if she'd been playing for Tennessee for years. She became the first freshman at the school to start every game. She averaged 16 points and nine rebounds to lead the Lady Vols in both categories and was named to every major All American team.

Her second season was even better as she improved her shooting and bumped up her average to 20 points per game. But she really stood out in the NCAA tournament, leading an upset win over top-ranked Connecticut and subsequent victories over Notre Dame and Old Dominion.

About the only quibble is her defense. She's not bad at it. But Summitt wants her to play with more intensity, look at shutting down an opponent as every bit the challenge that scoring on one is.

It is a challenge that Holdsclaw will no doubt embrace.

Athletes of the Year

HONORABLE MENTION

ELSA HASCH/ALLSPORT

CLIVE BRUNSKILL/ALLSPORT

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
CHARLES WOODSON

It says miles about your ability when you become the first player at your position to win college football's most coveted award. The Michigan defensive back became the first player on his side of the ball to win the Heisman Trophy. Woodson did not rest with that prestigious honor, though. Against Washington State in the Rose Bowl, he rescued the Wolverines with an end zone interception and played his usual fly-paper defense. Without him, the Wolverines probably would not have won and split a national championship. Then again, they probably would not have been playing for a national championship. He was later selected in the first round of the NFL draft by the Oakland Raiders.

PRO FOOTBALL
BRETT FAVRE

Football's best quarterback was as brilliant as ever. He hovered around the top of the rankings in every important measure of quarterbacking skill. Favre led the NFL with 3,711 yards and 33 touchdown passes. No other quarterback threw more than 28 touchdown passes. He finished second in the league completion and third in quarterback rating. He also played a nice cameo role in *There's Something About Mary*. Favre remained at his most dangerous when he was on the run and improvising. No quarterback going is better at turning a busted play into gold. He was good but not great in the playoffs. With a chance to tie the score in the waning moments of the Super Bowl—a situation he usually thrives on—he misfired.

PRO FOOTBALL
TERRELL DAVIS

It was thought that Denver had a Super Bowl chance only if it could run the ball. Davis ran the ball. Over, through and around Green Bay's highly touted defenders. And when he didn't run the ball, he served as the best decoy this side of a CIA sting. With his head ringing from the onset of a migraine headache, Davis suckered the Packers' defense into the middle while quarterback John Elway ran the ball around end. Healthy again in the second half, Davis scored two of his three touchdowns, including the game winner in the Broncos' 31-24 upset. He finished with 157 yards and waltzed away with the game's MVP award. The performance capped a superb year in which he established himself as the NFL's second best back behind Barry Sanders.

HOCKEY
U.S. WOMEN'S OLYMPIC TEAM

Not as celebrated as the U.S. women's basketball team that soared in Atlanta, but equally successful, the U.S. women's hockey team romped through its preliminary games in Nagano, Japan, and then shocked arch-rival Canada to win the first gold medal. That game attracted more media interest than any game in women's hockey history. While the women couldn't shoot as hard or skate as fast as the men, the final exceeded the typical NHL fare for fluidity and drama—checking is not permitted. It also underlined the surge in interest in women's athletics. Would there be a professional league to follow? That remained to be seen.

SKIING
PICABO STREET

The charismatic Street was no sure bet to even make it to the Nagano Olympics. Last summer she reinjured the knee that had been operated on the previous year. Then less than a month before the start of the Games, she was knocked unconscious after falling during a downhill race in Sweden. Street recovered, snapped on a pair of downhill skis for extra speed on a treacherous super-giant slalom course and won a gold medal by .01 in a race that was not supposed to be her specialty.

BASEBALL
SAMMY SOSA

In any other year, the Chicago Cubs' modest outfielder would have had the headlines to himself. He set a June record for home runs and established himself as a candidate to break Roger Maris' season mark. But Sosa's surge corresponded with the exploits of Mark McGwire, who always seemed to be a few home runs ahead of him, and hit the ball further. Then again, Sosa had something McGwire would have liked: a winning team. Sosa's hitting helped the normally dismal Cubs stay in the thick of the race to win a wild card playoff spot.

TENNIS
PETE SAMPRAS

Just when his future seemed uncertain, the world's top-ranked tennis player for the past five years won its most important tournament. Sampras tuned out the doubters who predicted a long-gradual slide to retirement and marched through a tricky Wimbledon draw. He beat back hometown hero Tim Henman in the semifinals in four sets. At the most critical juncture of that match, he rocketed a forehand return that ranks among the greatest clutch shots in tournament history. Two days later, he escaped the big serving of Goran Ivanisevic. The victory in London tied Sampras with the great Bjorn Borg for Grand Slam titles and reminded even his few detractors that no one—ever—was better on fast courts.

PRO BASKETBALL
KARL MALONE

The Utah Jazz forward followed his 1997 MVP season with an equally stupendous campaign. He finished second in the league in scoring and was his usual formidable presence under the boards. Only Michael Jordan was more important to his team. Malone was at his best against the cocky Lakers, terrorizing them with his rough-house inside play and pinpoint mid-range shooting. He created waves on his own team by criticizing center Greg Ostertag. In the final against Chicago, Malone was himself ripe for some barbs as his shooting touch left him and Dennis Rodman was able to match him elbow for elbow.

BASEBALL
DAVID WELLS

The craftsmen of perfect games are not all great career pitchers. Len Barker, for example, will never come to mind when considering the game's best pitchers. Yet each was perfect for a day. Add the 34-year-old Wells' name to the list of players who faced 27 hitters without making a mistake. Prior to his feat, Wells had been best known for his renegade ways. He'd grown up in a biker

family, liked loud music and didn't mind mouthing off to his managers. His pitching fluctuated from brilliant to poor. Early in the season, manager Joe Torre and he had argued heatedly over one shoddy outing. But against Minnesota at Yankee Stadium before a near sell-out crowd, Wells was inspired. His control was superb and the Twins couldn't get around on the fastball. The win spurred Wells to his best season ever—one that included a starting spot at the All-Star game.

FIGURE SKATING

TARA LIPINSKI

So small, yet so powerful and poised under pressure. Lipinski entered 1998 as the favorite for the Olympic gold medal in women's figure skating, but placed only second at the United States national championships when Michelle Kwan skated an almost flawless long program. After the first day of competition in Nagano, that's where it seemed they'd finish again. But the 15-year-old Lipinski turned in the performance of her young lifetime in what would prove to be her last competition as an amateur. She electrified a sold-out crowd and huge television audience with a series of triple jumps, and won the vote of six of the panel of 11 judges to become the youngest Olympic figure skating champion.

HOCKEY

DOMINIK HASEK

Has there ever been a hotter hockey goaltender? Hasek started slowly, but by midyear was pushing a mediocre Buffalo Sabres team toward the playoffs. Once there he shut down Philadelphia and Montreal. But Hasek did his best work at the Olympics. His Czech Republic team was not supposed to medal, but Hasek stymied many of the world's best offensive players as the Czech Republic beat the United States, Canada and Russia on its way to the gold medal. It was the greatest moment in the country's sporting history and Hasek returned home to a hero's welcome.

HOCKEY

SERGEI FEDOROV

It didn't look as if the Russian-born forward, arguably the NHL's best player, would return to Detroit. He wanted more money than the Red Wings were willing to spend on one player. But when Carolina offered Fedorov $38 million over six years, Detroit matched. Fedorov proved a savvy politician upon his return, inviting his teammates to an expensive dinner. Then he justified his team's reluctant expenditure, leading the NHL in postseason scoring as the Red Wings sailed to their second straight Stanley Cup championship.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

LISA LESLIE

Through good and bad, Leslie justified her reputation as one of the world's best and best-known women's basketball players. First the good: Leslie led the U.S. to the world championship. Now the bad: Although she ranked among the WNBA's leaders in scoring and rebounding, she could not carry a mediocre team that finished well out of the playoff running. Still, at 6-foot-5, Leslie could mix things up inside. But she could also hit from outside and was too mobile for most players her size.

TENNIS

WILLIAMS SISTERS

Their opponents are mixed about Venus and Serena Williams, who did not develop their games at the usual country club/national training compound facility. They speak out too much about other players and their own abilities. Their father is an even bigger blowhard, such as when he told reporters that Serena would kick world No. 1 Martina Hingis' "ass." But strong personalities and controversy is exactly what tennis needs. And the Williams play an exciting, big-hitting brand of tennis that leaves fans breathless. No other players could match their athleticism and power. The taller Venus regularly hits 120 mph or more on the radar gun—faster than many of the top men. Serena looks like a weightlifter and can hit a winner from anywhere on the court. Venus spent much of the year firmly planted among the world's top 10 players. Serena hovered in the teens and low 20s.

PRO BASKETBALL

MICHAEL JORDAN

The greatest player in basketball history kept amazing us even as discussion often turned to his expected retirement. He led the league in scoring, won his fifth MVP award and sixth NBA championship. The final series against Utah, perhaps the first team considered the favorite to beat the Bulls, added to the world's collection of vintage Jordan moments. In the sixth and final game, he made the game's two key plays. With seconds remaining and the game tied, Jordan swooped along the baseline to steal the ball. On the ensuing series, he faked defender Bryan Russell practically into a neighboring state before canning the winning shot. Well after the ball swished through the net, he held his arm in shooting position—savoring the moment.

PRO BASKETBALL

REGGIE MILLER

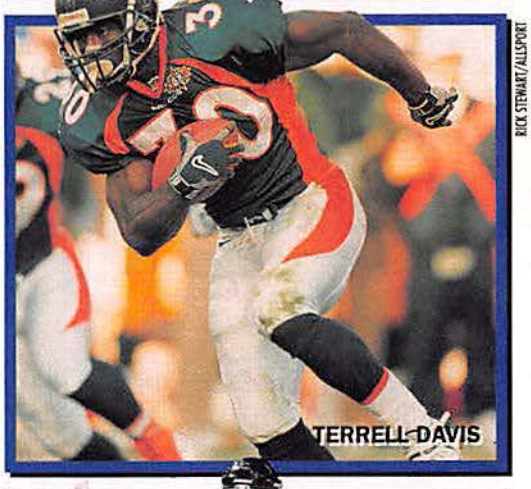
The Pacers' outspoken guard toned down his mouthy act but reinforced his place among the NBA's all-time great playoff scorers. Miller returned to Madison Square Garden for yet another torturing of the Knicks. He hit a 3-point shot with seconds remaining to send the fourth game of the teams' series into overtime. Indiana took that game and the next as it advanced to the Eastern Conference Final. In that round, Miller started slowly. But he found his touch in time to lead a comeback win in the third game. One day later in game four, he tossed Michael Jordan out of the way and sank a dramatic, game-winning 3-point shot.

SOCCER

ZINEDINE ZIDANE

France's star playmaker got off to a rocky start in the World Cup, but recovered to become the toast of his country. Zidane received a red card and two-game suspension after stomping a Saudi Arabia player in France's second game. The suspension almost cost France as, without its best offensive player, it is unable to score until deep into overtime of its first second-round game. Zidane played solidly but not spectacularly over the next two games. But in the final he became the goal scorer that his team craved. He stunned Brazil with a brilliant header off a corner kick just after the mid point of the first half. Then he shocked Brazil again just before the halftime whistle with another superb header.

MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT



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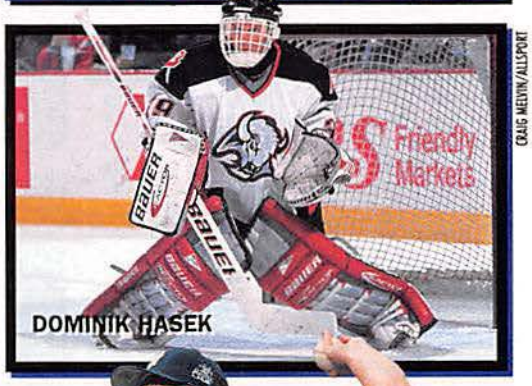

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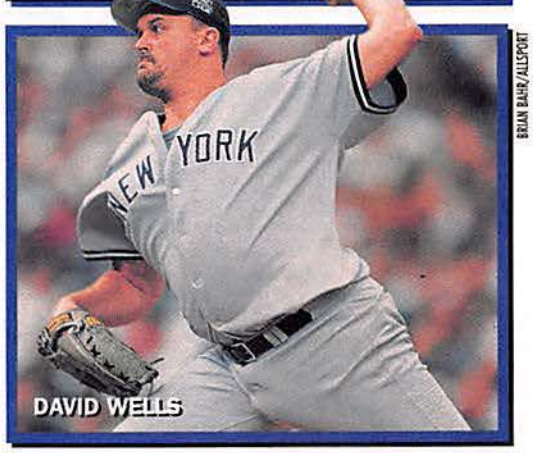


BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT

The Top 100 Newsmakers of 1998

1. KORDELL STEWART

A downer of a playoff game against Denver cost Pittsburgh, but Stewart made enough big plays to mark him as the NFL's most exciting young quarterback.

2. STEVE YOUNG

Ignore the streamlined offense that a new coach installed to protect him. Young was as good as ever in leading San Francisco to a split of the best record in the NFC.

3. JIM FASSEL

The Giants' new helmsman won the 1997 NFL Coach of the Year award after teaching a young team and disheartened franchise how to scrap and grind into the playoffs.

4. ILIA KULIK

What's in a costume that blends with a checker cab? The Russian completed one quadruple jump and three triples on his way to the Olympic gold medal.

5. KOBE BRYANT

Young and still out of control at times, Bryant nevertheless provided the NBA with some of its most spectacular highlights and became the youngest starter in NBA All-Star Game history.

6. TOM OSBORNE

Unlike most of his brethren, the Nebraska coach retired on his own terms and with his team at the top of its game. He finished his 25-year career with a stunning record of 255-49-3.

7. KASEY KELLER

Could it be that the world's best soccer goalkeeper wears the red, white and blue? Keller stymied world champion Brazil in the United States' Gold Cup semifinal shocker.

8. KEITH VAN HORN

Skeptics figured the Nets had blundered again in relinquishing so many players for the chance to draft Van Horn, but the rookie forward proved to be a rare gem for the once-struggling team.

9. LARRY BIRD

The Hall of Fame forward won the Coach of the Year award as he squeezed more life out of an aging team than most experts thought possible.

10. CYNTHIA COOPER

The Houston guard led her team to a second straight WNBA title and won her second consecutive MVP award in the process.

11. ROY JONES

Boxing's most talented performer dominated the light-heavyweight division with his remarkable elusiveness and power punching.

12. TIGER WOODS

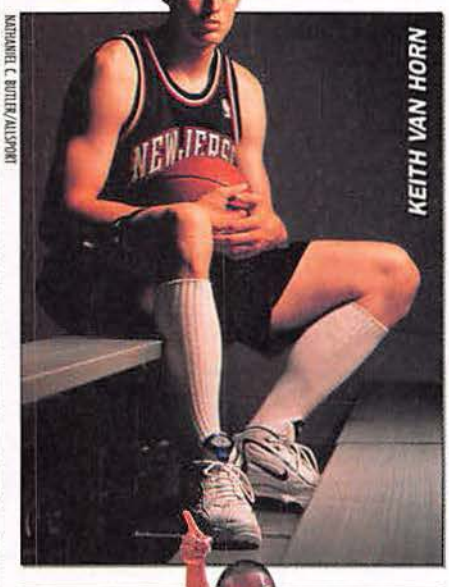
He remained golf's best draw, but Woods and his fans found that Grand Slam victories are difficult to come by.

13. PEYTON MANNING

Manning couldn't do much against Nebraska's fierce pass rush, but was still the NFL's top draft pick. Pity his health behind the Colts' offensive line.

STEPHEN DUNN/ALLSPORT

KORDELL STEWART



NATHANIEL C. BUTLER/ALLSPORT

KEITH VAN HORN

ELSA HASCH/ALLSPORT

CYNTHIA COOPER

14. RYAN LEAF

He narrowly missed sending Michigan home without a share of the national championship. A missed practice left his new San Diego Chargers team wondering if Leaf's fiery individuality would lead to big plays or big headaches.

15. PEDRO MARTINEZ

The Boston Red Sox hurler was just as dominant as he'd been the previous season in the National League as he led his new team to a playoff spot.

16. SCOTTY BOWMAN

With his latest championship, the Detroit Red Wings coach adds to the file that stamps him as the greatest coach in NHL history.

17. BUD SELIG

Forget the interim tag, this Bud is for you and the baseball owners who figured he was just the man to do their bidding.

18. JACK NICKLAUS

History's greatest golfer had the Masters buzzing when, at age 58, he pulled to within two strokes of the lead on the final day. Later Nicklaus pulled out of the British Open, snapping his streak of consecutive majors at 154, and announced that he would retire from the PGA tour after the year 2000.

19. REAL QUIET/VICTORY GALLOP

The thoroughbreds dueled for the Triple Crown, with Real Quiet winning the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, but Victory Gallop coming from behind to take the Belmont Stakes.

20. MIKE TYSON

The former heavyweight fighter sued Don King for $100 million and lost his temper at a hearing to determine if he should receive a boxing license.

21. BRETT FAVRE

Football's best quarterback was merely okay in the Super Bowl, which gave Denver an opening to win the game.

22. REGGIE WHITE

The defensive end faded badly and then sullied his image with a foam-mouthed, homophobic diatribe.

23. JOHN ELWAY

Denver's Hall of Fame-bound quarterback finally wins football's most important honor. Elway did not dominate his team's offense as he had in previous years; rather, he blended in with the most talented group of teammates he'd ever had.

24. BILL COWHER

Despite losing several key players to free agency and starting the youthful Stewart, Cowher coaxed his team to within 3 points of its second Super Bowl appearance in three years. No NFL coach does a better job of motivating his players.

25. LATRELL SPREWELL

A judge ruled that the NBA had punished the Golden State guard too severely, but other teams weren't lining up to sign him, and the former All Star later got into trou-

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ble for driving recklessly on a Northern California highway.

26. SE RI PAK

The biggest sensation to hit the women's golf tour in years wins two majors and sets an LPGA record for scoring with a 261 at another tour event.

27. LINDSAY DAVENPORT

The easy-going Davenport discovered the importance of hard training, lost weight, and established herself as Martina Hingis' best challenger for the No. 1 ranking.

28. WAYNE GRETZKY

The Great One led the New York Rangers in scoring, but could not land them a playoff spot or help favored Team Canada to an Olympic gold medal.

29. JERRY SLOAN

Sloan is proof that the best coaches don't always receive the most acclaim. Sloan led Utah to its second consecutive appearance in the NBA final.

30. GARY PAYTON

A hot Lakers team spoiled an otherwise superb season for the Sonics' star guard, who led his team to another 50-plus wins in the regular season.

31. ANTAWN JAMISON

College basketball's best player spurred North Carolina to the ACC regular season championship and tournament title, although he couldn't help the Tar Heels get past Utah.

32. MIKE BIBBY

Arizona's guard couldn't lead his team to a second NCAA title. But his savvy play made him the second pick in the NBA draft.

33. BILL PARCELLS

He may not win any awards for sensitivity, but Parcells knows how to extract the best performances from his team, as he led the Jets from the NFL's worst record to a near playoff slot.

34. MIKE SHANAHAN

Denver's coach emphasized the run and built the sort of tough defense his team needed to win the first Super Bowl in franchise history.

35. JEFF GORDON

Southern fans boo him because he comes from north of the Mason-Dixon line, but even his harshest critics can't deny that no NASCAR driver has enjoyed more success or earned more money from racing over the past two years than Gordon.

36. MARION JONES

The world's fastest woman continued dominating her specialty, the 100-meter dash, and added a slew of long jump titles against the world's best competition.

37. BARRY BONDS

San Francisco's star leftfielder carried his team's offense and became the first player in major league history to hit 400 home runs and steal 400 bases.

38. LEE JANZEN

Janzen won his second U.S. Open, but later in the year was disqualified from the NEC World Series of Golf in one of the more bizarre episodes in recent golfing history.

39. MICHELLE GILLOM

The best post player in the WNBA finished second in the league's MVP voting and nearly led Phoenix to a league title.

40. TEEMU SELANNE

The best NHL player with the least publicity: Selanne led the NHL in goals, but can't help it that he plays in the decidedly small-time hockey market of Anaheim.

41. ROB BLAKE

The Los Angeles Kings' Blake won the Norris Trophy as the NHL's best defenseman and was named the best backliner at the Olympics.

42. PAT SUMMITT

The greatest coach in women's basketball history has her best season yet, an undefeated special that leaves even the Lady Vols' rivals admiring them.

43. TREVOR HOFFMAN

With the National League's most effective reliever, it was no wonder that the San Diego Padres ran away with their division.

44. LILIAN THURMAN

The World Cup's best defender scores the winning goal in France's surprisingly difficult semifinal win over Croatia.

45. CAL RIPKEN

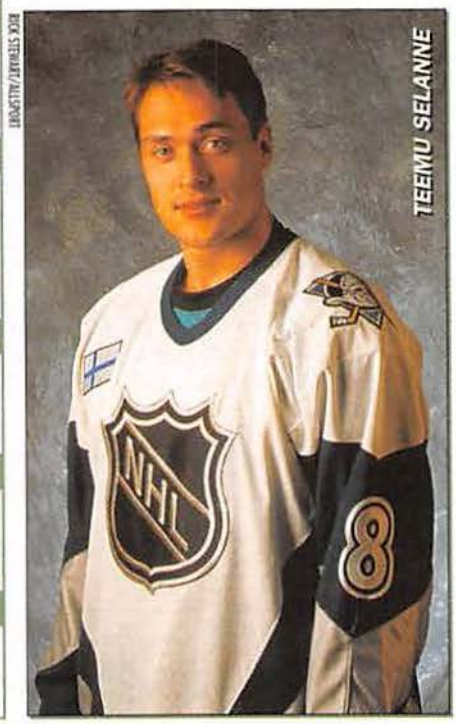
Ripken tells Baltimore manager Ray Miller that it's time to sit one out, and so ends his consecutive games streak at 2,632.

46. DALE EARNHARDT

The man in black finally wins NASCAR's most important race, ending two decades of frustration.

47. ANNA KOURNIKOVA

The promising young Russian made as many headlines with her tight outfits and good looks as she did with her big-hitting tennis game.



BRUCE BENNETT/ALLSPORT

48. JAROMIR JAGR

The NHL's leading scorer continued to provide a highlight a game with his speed and elusiveness.

49. DANA STUBBLEFIELD

Who's a better interior lineman? "No one," said the Washington Redskins, who paid the former 49er a small fortune to make their run defense strong.

50. MICHELLE SMITH

The international governing body of swimming bans Ireland's most famous swimmer for apparently trying to mask her use of performance-enhancing drugs that may have helped her go from also-ran to Olympic gold medalist.

51. MICHAEL IRVIN

The Dallas Cowboys' wide receiver makes the list for his bad boy behavior as much as his catches. His latest brush with controversy involves a fight on a haircut line that leaves a teammate with a nasty stab wound from a pair of scissors.

52. JERRY RICE

His miraculous recovery from knee surgery ended quickly. But come training camp, Rice was back catching passes for San Francisco.

53. DAVID STERN

The commissioner who could do no wrong finally has problems—big problems—as the NBA grapples with soaring egos, nasty brawls, off-court shenanigans and a player lockout that threatens the 1998-99 season.

54. GREG VAUGHN

For a while it looked as if Vaughn would stick around for the great Maris chase; he did not, but still registered a career year for the San Diego Padres, who had tried to unload him in the offseason.

55. GRANT HILL

His team went south, but through no fault of his own, as Hill remained among the NBA's best all-around players

56. TIM DUNCAN

Duncan was an easy choice for Rookie of the Year as he ranked among the league leaders in scoring and rebounding and helped the Spurs engineer one of the great turnarounds in NBA history.

57. MICHELLE KWAN

A near perfect performance at the U.S. Nationals meant little come the long program at the Winter Olympics. Kwan's sportsmanship in the face of a disappointing silver medal meant quite a bit, though.

58. BERNIE WILLIAMS

The most talented player on baseball's best team put up another season of big numbers despite missing nearly a quarter of a season to injury.

59. TINA THOMPSON/SHERYL SWOOPES

Thompson and Swoopes were the second and third members of the Houston Comets' high-scoring triumvirate that led the team to its second consecutive WNBA championship.

60. YANKEE INFIELD

It was difficult to pinpoint one area that surpassed all the others with baseball's best team. But the infield was as good a

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place as any with Derek Jeter, Chuck Knoblauch, Scott Brosius, Tino Martinez, and the catching combination of Jorge Posada and Joe Girardi.

61. CHERYL MILLER

If there was something involving basketball, Miller seemed to be around. She provided incisive, strong-willed commentary about the NBA and coached her Phoenix Mercury to a near championship.

62. J.D. DREW

The latest poster boy for greed won't sign the Phillies $6 million offer, re-enters the baseball draft and eventually signs with St. Louis for $10 million. Now will he be able to deliver?

63. MATT KUCHAR

America's favorite amateur golfer smiled and smiled and finished higher than anyone thought he could at the Masters and U.S. Open.

64. ORLANDO HERNANDEZ

El Duque was no fluque as he stepped into the Yankees' strong rotation and became one of their most consistent starters.

65. FELIX TRINIDAD

The absurd and corrupt nature of boxing was never more in evidence than in Trinidad's seemingly endless wait to challenge Oscar De La Hoya. Trinidad appeared to be the only fighter capable of beating De La Hoya.

66. PATRICK RAFTER

The heartthrob Australian was the hottest player in tennis this summer as he repeated his U.S. Open championship.

67. BABE RUTH/ROGER MARIS

With home run hitting in vogue, the legendary Babe and record-setting Maris both returned to the headlines. It was also the 50th anniversary of the Babe's death.

68. JOHN STOCKTON

A inch or so more on his final 3-point shot and Chicago would have faced the unenviable task of beating the Jazz in Utah in game seven of their playoff series.

69. MIKE DITKA

The New Orleans Saints' coach was as colorful as ever and big on promises: that he'd rev up his team's moribund offense and stop cursing.

70. DALE EARNHARDT

The Man in Black thrills his diehard fans by finally winning the Daytona 500.

71. MO VAUGHN

A drunken driving charge and contract dispute sullied his once shiny reputation, but Vaughn remained among baseball's most dangerous hitters.

72. NOMAR GARCIAPARRA

There is perhaps no better all-around shortstop than Garciaparra, who hits like a first baseman but fields his position with skill.

73. MIKE PIAZZA

Perhaps the best-hitting catcher in baseball history couldn't find a home as he moved from Los Angeles to Florida to New York in one stunning, mid-season week.

74. CHRIS OSGOOD

Detroit's goaltender was supposed to be its weak link, but Osgood played solidly throughout the Red Wings' Stanley Cup campaign.

75. CHRIS WEBBER

The All-Star forward notches great numbers and regularly makes the nightly highlight clips, but he seems to undermine his team's success, which is why he lands in Sacramento—his third stop in the NBA.

76. GEORGE KARL

As long as he was in Seattle, all Karl did was win, but playoff failures ended his tenure as Sonics' coach.

77. HARRY CARAY

Cubs fans didn't forget their beloved announcer as they donned oversized versions of his familiar dark-framed glasses and belted out "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" as if Caray was still leading the song.

78. EVANDER HOLYFIELD

In a sport dominated by scoundrels, the heavyweight champion was a pleasant change, not to mention still boxing's gutsiest fighter.

79. KERRY WOOD

The Cubs finally found a pitcher to replace the long-departed Greg Maddux as their ace, as Wood struck out 20 Houston Astros on one occasion and outdueled Maddux on another.

80. KEN GRIFFEY JR.

Seattle's fabulous centerfielder thrilled fans with spectacular plays and hit a ton, but couldn't compensate for his team's terrible pitching.

81. ALBERT BELLE

The White Sox slugger is if anything consistent: plagued by off-field problems, surly, and one of baseball's most reliable power hitters.

82. RANDY MOSS

No one questioned the Marshall receiver's extraordinary talents, but he sank to the bottom third of the draft—Minnesota chose him—because of off-field problems that discouraged most of the NFL's teams.

83. ALEX RODRIGUEZ

The Mariners marvelous shortstop put up an outfielder's numbers at the plate for a disappointing Seattle team.

84. ANDRE AGASSI

The tennis chameleon rebounds from a dreadful 1997 to his rightful place among the game's best players.

85. MIKE HOLMGREN

Green Bay's coach was rightfully worried about his team's intensity but still coaxed his players to a second consecutive Super Bowl appearance.

86. OSCAR DE LA HOYA

Boxing's most stylish champion continued punishing opponents and looking for someone who could push him.

87. PAUL O'NEILL

Is there a more complete hitter than the Yankees' rightfielder, who hits for average and power and drives in bushels of runs?

88. JEFF VAN GUNDY/PAT RILEY

The pupil and his mentor jostled for the slightest psychological edge in their playoff series, which turned violent before Van Gundy's Knicks won in five games.

89. RANDY JOHNSON

Although his contract dispute with Seattle sapped his concentration, the left-hander was leading the American League in strikeouts before he was sent to Houston to help in that team's playoff run.

90. TOM GLAVINE

Atlanta's number two ace was as quietly brilliant as ever, although attention, as always, focused on Greg Maddux.

91. MARK O'MEARA

Golf's most surprising double major winner: O'Meara was well past his 40th birthday when he captured the Masters and British Open.

92. JUAN GONZALEZ

The Texas Rangers' power hitter looked as if he'd challenge Hack Wilson's record for RBI. He didn't, but he was still far and away the American League's best run producer.

93. MARTINA HINGIS

The Swiss teenager did not dominate women's tennis the way she had in 1997, but she won the Australian Open and maintained her number-one ranking.

94. DAN O'BRIEN

When you're as good as O'Brien it doesn't matter if you don't compete for two years. The world's best decathlete returned to action at the Goodwill Games and blew away the field.

95. JOE TORRE

The Yankees' skipper once again accomplished the impossible: winning big and keeping his clubhouse calm despite the world's most ornery boss and a demanding public waiting for any slip-up.

96. SHAQUILLE O'NEAL

The Lakers' center did his part to drive his team toward an NBA title, but he just couldn't get his talented teammates to perform up to par in a crushing Western final loss to Utah.

97. ROGER CLEMENS

From May on, nobody pitched better than the Toronto Blue Jays ace, as he ranked among league leaders in wins, ERA and strikeouts.

98. DENNIS RODMAN

His act is no longer interesting—just laughable—but the Worm remained the NBA's best rebounder and a postseason stalwart of the Bulls' championship run.

99. RONALDO

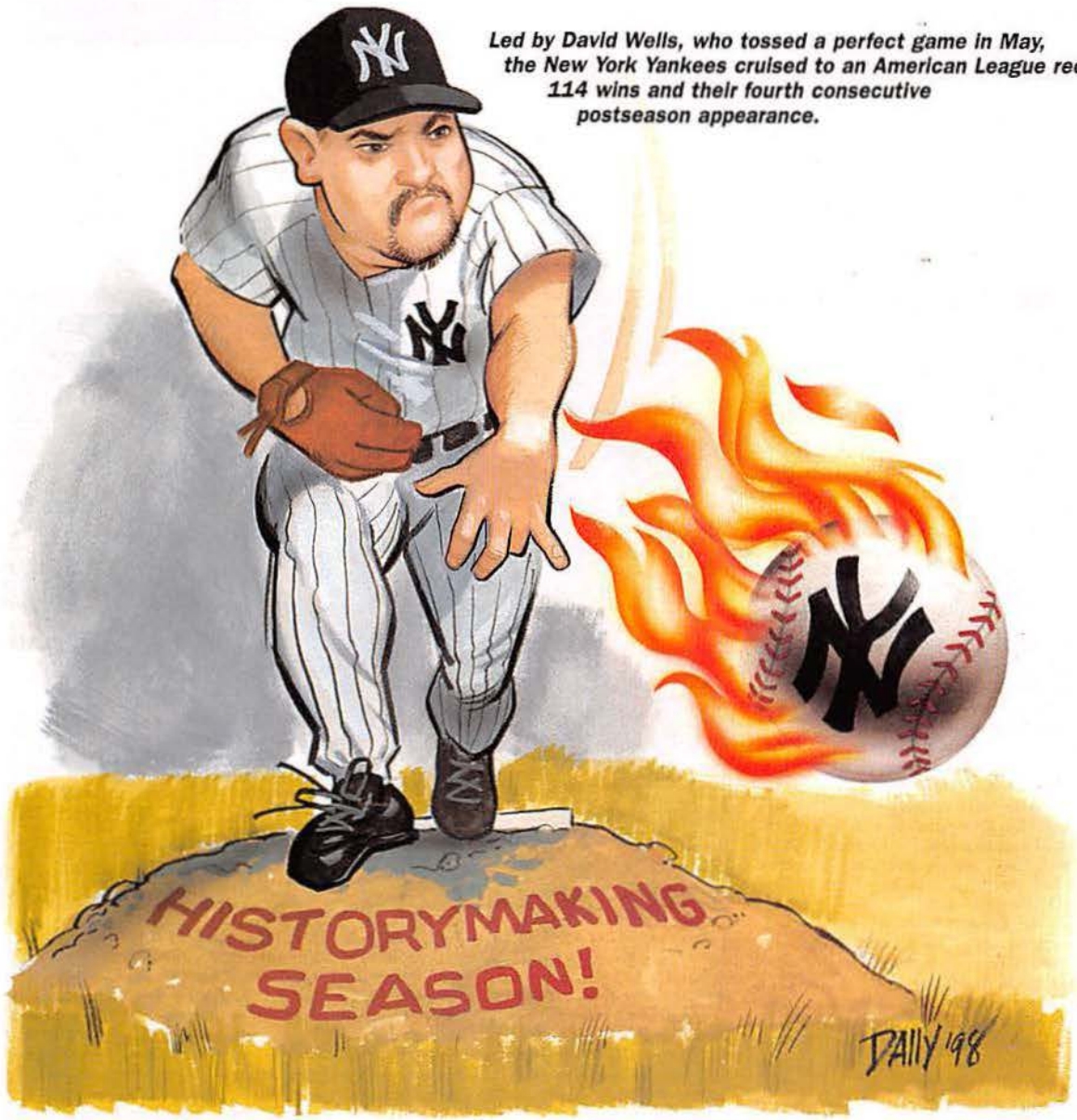
The world's best soccer player, Brazil's remarkable scorer was brilliant at times but did not receive enough support from his egotistical teammates.

100. JANA NOVOTNA

The Wimbledon crier, the woman who reminded us—unfortunately—how easy it is to succumb to nerves—to choke as every athlete has at one point or another—won Wimbledon on her third trip to the final.

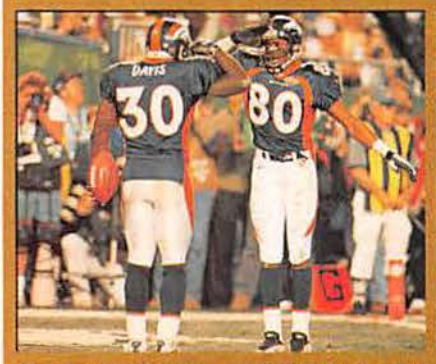
THE NATIONAL SPORTS REVIEW

Spectacles



Led by David Wells, who tossed a perfect game in May, the New York Yankees cruised to an American League record 114 wins and their fourth consecutive postseason appearance.

Pro Football



The Denver Broncos upset the Green Bay Packers to take Super Bowl XXXII. Although John Elway (top left) didn't complete a touchdown

ELWAY'S GRANDEST PRIZE

It was far from John Elway's best game. The Denver quarterback completed just 12 passes for 123 yards and no touchdowns. Elway has done better in a quarter.

But Elway wouldn't have traded all the big quarters in his career for his first Super Bowl victory, a 31-24 shocker over the heavily favored Green Bay Packers.

"You're never going to be up there with the elite quarterbacks in the game without winning the Super Bowl," Elway said, adding that his career "would not have been complete without this (win)."

The Broncos' victory was a stroke for persistency. Elway had already lost three Super Bowls in humiliating routs. He seemed destined to join a short but impressive list of quarterbacks who never won football's grandest prize, Fran Tarkington and Jim Kelly among them.

But instead of relying on old and unsuccessful formulas, the quarterback embraced a new system that had him passing less. More egotistical players might have balked at the changes. But Elway never gave up hope that he could win a championship.

Denver's win snapped another streak. AFC teams had lost 13 consecutive games. Most of them were not even competitive. Just a year earlier, Green Bay had socked it to New England. The team that arrived in San Diego to face Denver looked even better.

It had lost just three games, winning its last seven games. Those victories included a 21-7 smashing of Tampa Bay in their first playoff game and a 23-10 bashing of San Francisco that was not nearly as close as the score suggested.

Green Bay possessed the NFL's best quarterback in Brett Favre. It had its best running game in years. And it owned one of the league's stingiest defenses. The oddsmakers made the Pack an 11½-point favorite. Only twice had a team favored by 10 or more points failed to win—the Jets in 1968 and the Chiefs the following year.

Yet those teams shared one quality with the Broncos: a talented, charismatic quarterback—Joe Namath for New York and Len Dawson for Kansas City. Elway was certainly the equal of both—better in the waning seconds of a close game when Elway usually shone.

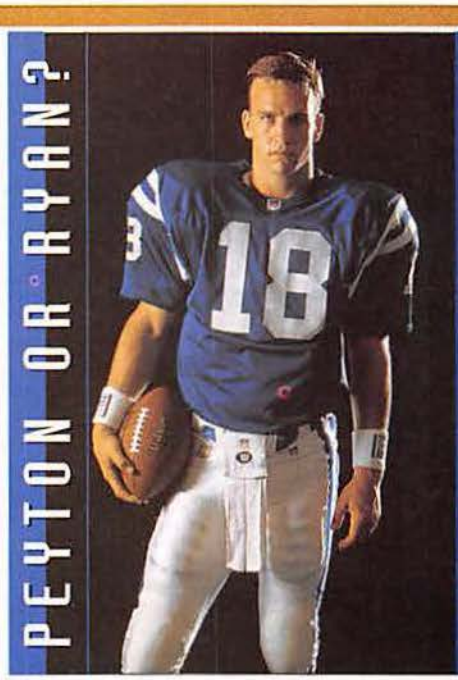
Still, to understand the roots of Denver's victory, you'll have to backtrack to the arrival of Mike Shanahan three years earlier. Shanahan, a semi-failure with the Los Angeles Raiders, inherited an aging, dispirited team that had made the playoffs only once in the 1990s and gone through two coaches. He quickly went about changing the nature of the club.

Denver had played a bend-but-don't-break defense and counted on Elway to pull victory from defeat. Recognizing that this style was no longer working, and that Elway had reached his mid 30s, Shanahan made defense and a tough running game his team's foundation. It took a season to bring in the right players and get his system running smoothly, but once Shanahan did, Denver took off.

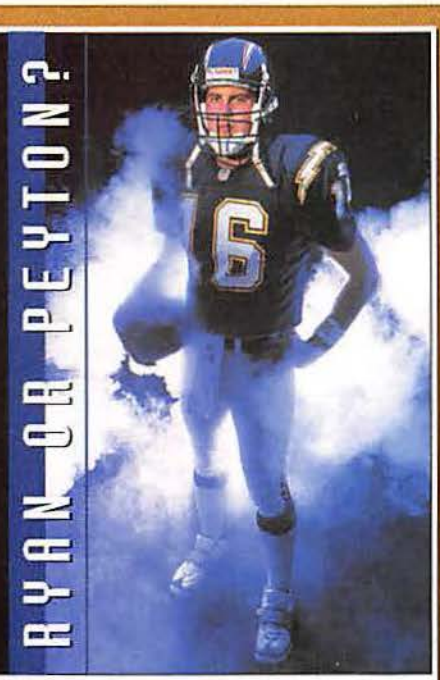
The Broncos went 13-3 in 1996—the NFL's best record—and appeared Super Bowl bound until Jacksonville derailed them in a heartbreaking playoff loss at home. Yet instead of crushing the team's spirit, it stiffened its resolve. The players believed in Shanahan's system.

They picked up where they'd been the previ-

PEYTON OR RYAN?



RYAN OR PEYTON?



Any football fan not hibernating, lost at sea or hopelessly devoted to defense knew that quarterbacks Peyton Manning or Ryan Leaf would be selected first in the draft. The pair had played with astounding skill and maturity throughout their college careers. Scouts considered them can't-miss prospects, players around whom low-riding franchises could build their futures.

Manning, the son of former Saints' quarterback and Mississippi All-American Archie Manning, rewrote Tennessee's record books and led the Vols to the SEC Championship. Groomed as a quarterback from the time he was a little boy, and practicing with pros from his father's old team while still in high school, he possessed an uncanny knowledge of the position. He could read defenses like a veteran and didn't try to force passes into tight coverage, a common mistake of young quarterbacks.

Leaf knew less about nuance, but had the more impressive physique. He was built like a tight end and played with an almost reckless intensity that spurred his otherwise run-of-the-mill team to new heights. Largely due to Leaf's passing and leadership, Washington State, which was picked to finish in the middle of the Pac-10 Conference, won a share of the conference title and earned a Rose Bowl bid. In that game, Leaf narrowly missed orchestrating an upset of heavily favored Michigan.

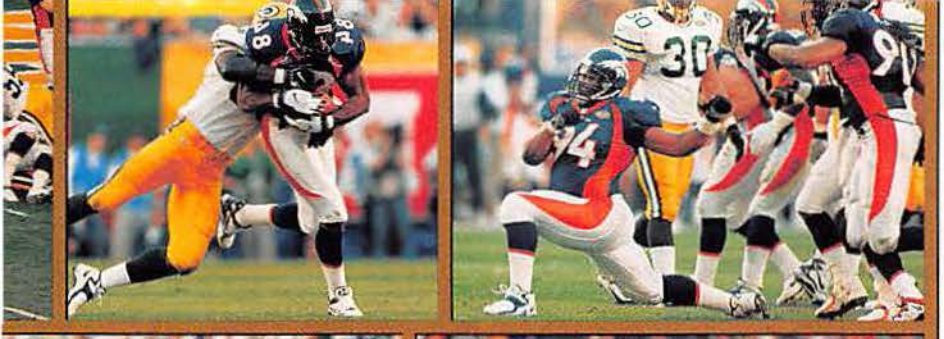
Draft experts loved Leaf's arm strength and his willingness to throw his weight around when tacklers got in his way. Many of them figured he had more potential than Manning because of his superior physical talent and less sophisticated football background. They thought he had more room to improve than Manning, who already had the knowledge of a veteran.

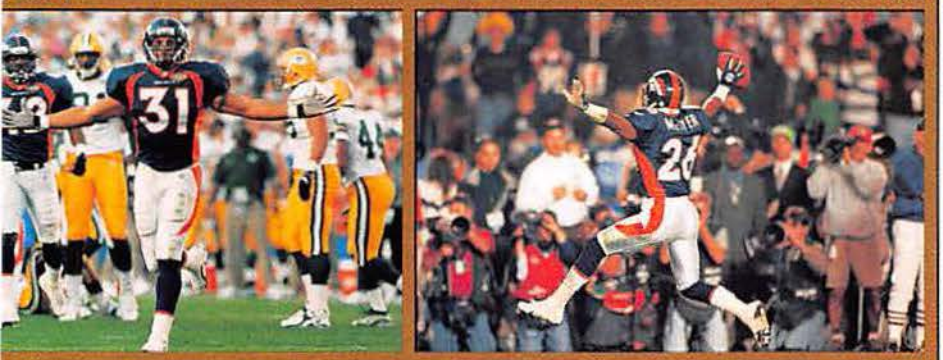
There wasn't much separating the pair as franchise-building quarterbacks.

Indianapolis, which desperately needed a quarterback after sending away Jim Harbaugh, refused to show its cards. Why the Colts elected to do so is difficult to say. General Manager Bill Polian knew before the draft started that he would select Manning. The architect of expansion Carolina's swift rise to the playoffs, he understood that NFL teams can go from the outhouse to the penthouse in the space of a year. A polished quarterback such as Manning would make the job easier.

The Colts' selection was just fine for Leaf. He had hoped to play for San Diego, which traded for the right to draft him. Playing for the Chargers meant that he would remain on the West Coast and that he would be working with San Diego's quarterback friendly staff. Manning, meanwhile, would work under Indianapolis coach Jim Mora's more conservative scheme. Who would do better of course remains to be seen. Leaf won his first regular-season start. Manning lost. Yet one thing was certain: It was a good draft for quarterbacks.

PHOTO CREDITS: PETER TAYLOR/ALLSPORT (MANNING); VINCENT LAFORET/ALLSPORT (LEAF)





pass, he scored on a run in the second quarter. Terrell Davis (bottom left) also became the first player in Super Bowl history to rush for three touchdowns. Shannon Sharpe (top center), Keith Traylor (top right), Derek Loville (bottom center) and Tim McKyer (bottom right) also played key roles in the victory.

SUPER BOWL PHOTO CREDITS (CLOCKWISE): JEFF JACOBSEN/ALLSPORT; ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT; AL BELLO/ALLSPORT; AL BELLO/ALLSPORT; AL BELLO/ALLSPORT; ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT; AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

ous regular season, sweeping their first six games. Along the way, they beat up on Kansas City, the team that figured to be their closest competitor in the division; and New England, a favorite for the conference championship.

The ground game was percolating with a small but mobile offensive line and Terrell Davis, the NFL's most intelligent runner. The defense was a rock wall. Four of the Broncos' first six opponents failed to reach 20 points. Denver's rugged style ultimately meant fewer passes and less opportunity for defenses to tee off on Elway.

Still, the remainder of the regular season did not go as smoothly, largely because of a tough schedule. Losses to San Francisco and Pittsburgh on the road cost Denver homefield advantage and made them a postseason underdog.

Denver entered the playoffs as a wild card team, which meant two of its games would be away from the friendly confines of Mile High Stadium. Yet the Broncos' one home game offered a hint of what was to come. Denver completely dominated Jacksonville and took revenge for its previous year's playoff loss.

It would travel to Kansas City for its second game. The Chiefs had recovered from their season-opening loss to snare the division crown. They had as good a defense as any team around and were primed to make up for several years of playoff disappointments.

But Denver thwarted the Chiefs' rock 'em, sock 'em pass rush with its running game. It was a bold strategy. Davis had been hurting from a separated shoulder and ribs so badly bruised that he needed to play in a flack jacket. Nevertheless, the running back would rumble for 101 yards, which deflected just enough attention from Elway to hit on the game's biggest play.

Down 10-7 late in the fourth quarter, Elway hit Ed McCaffrey on a crossing pattern that took Denver down to the Kansas City one-yard line. Davis punched through on his third try for the game-winning score.

A week later, the Broncos faced an even more formidable task: defeating the defending AFC champion Steelers before their rabid Three Rivers Stadium crowd of 61,000. Pittsburgh had the NFL's best coach in motivating a team, Bill Cowher; a rugged defense and ground game; and spectacular young quarterback in Kordell Stewart.

Stewart had already left Denver gasping once during the season, accounting for five touchdowns—three passing and two running—in his team's easy win in early December. Denver knew it would have to keep him in check.

So defensive coordinator Greg Robinson scrapped the straight man-to-man defense that Stewart had skewered and created a potent mixture of man-to-man and zone coverages and blitzes. The inexperienced Stewart was mesmerized.

A second quarter interception into double coverage led to a touchdown that gave Denver the lead for good. Stewart tossed two other interceptions, one into triple coverage, and fumbled once for good measure.

He could have taken notes on Elway, who amidst the roaring stadium, picked away calmly at Pittsburgh's defense. He passed for 195 yards and two touchdowns and, as he had against Kansas City, started the game's key play. With Denver nursing a 3-point lead and needing a first down to run out the clock, Elway ignored Denver's thick playbook and told tight end Shannon Sharpe to get open—no play, no specific pattern. Sharpe looked at him as if he were crazy but did as he was told. The pass was perfect. When Sharpe was tackled, he was 18 yards upfield. Denver had its first down and invitation to the Super Bowl.

All the momentum that Denver had built during its playoff run seemed irrelevant once the Super Bowl started. It took Favre four minutes to guide Green Bay into the end zone. Fans used to recent blowouts groaned. Advertisers hoping for a close game to keep viewers pinned to their televisions began sweating.

Denver was unruffled by the quick score. It had veteran leadership and a another solid game plan. The Broncos weren't going to sway one bit from their run-oriented scheme. They figured that they could tire Green Bay's hefty defensive line and keep its high-flying offense off the field.

A 10-play, 58-yard drive squared matters and helped the Broncos shake off their early jitters. "Based on the way some of the earlier Super Bowls had gone for us, it was important that we come back and score after that," Elway said.

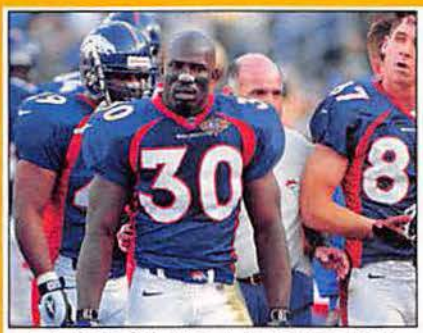
Denver took control of the game. It converted a late first-quarter interception into a touchdown and padded the lead to 10 late in the second quarter. While Green Bay knotted the score twice in the second half—at 17 and then at 24—Denver always seemed a half-step faster. Davis was bursting through huge holes in the line.

He capped a 13-play, 92-yard drive in the third quarter with the second of his Super Bowl record three rushing touchdowns, and scored the game winner with just under two minutes remaining. Davis would finish with 157 yards, despite missing much of the second quarter with a migraine. While nowhere near the scrambler he'd been in his prime, Elway also got involved in the running game. He scored on his own one-yard carry and gained a key first down in the third quarter on a leaping, diving eight-yard carry.

"I used all of my three-inch vertical leap for that," Elway said.

Still, Green Bay had one last chance to shatter Denver's dream. Favre took over at his own 30 and needed just 35 seconds to advance the ball to Denver's 31. A pass to running back Dorsey Levens netted another four yards. But that was as far as the Packers would get as the Broncos forced three incompletions.

Elway finally had his championship. As his teammates hugged and danced on San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium field and flashbulbs popped from every conceivable angle, he raised his arms in triumph, the game ball in his left hand. Sometimes it takes a little longer than it was hoped for to reach a goal. But that merely makes its fulfillment all the more satisfying. Ask Elway.



TERRIFIC TERRELL

It didn't look good for Terrell Davis or the Broncos. Hit hard in the second quarter, the team's star running back was experiencing the initial stage of a migraine. This ailment had kept him out of action at various times in his career. For a few frightening seconds, as he sat on the sidelines, Davis was blinded.

"I couldn't see a thing," Davis said.

Until that point, the game could not have gone better for Davis. He'd romped through Green Bay's defense for 54 yards. Teammates aware of his importance checked in with worried glances and pleaded with Davis to return. He took some medication and prayed.

Helped by the Super Bowl's lengthy halftime show, Davis had time to recover. He picked up where he'd left off and finished with 157 yards, a Super Bowl record three rushing touchdowns, and the game's MVP Award.

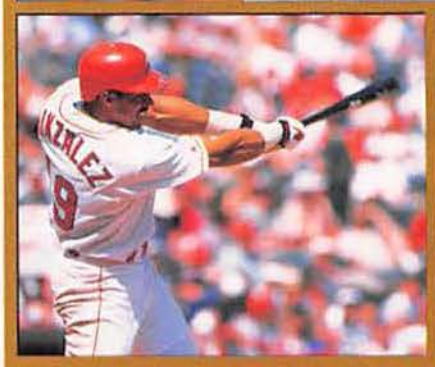
The award proved a fitting climax for a dream week. He'd grown up near San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium and remembered clearly the hoopla surrounding the previous Super Bowl in San Diego. Friends and family cheered him from the stands and his old neighborhood.

"I'm numb, I'm numb," Davis said shortly after time had expired.

His reaction was understandable.

PHOTO BY RICK STEWART/ALLSPORT

Baseball



Baseball was indeed at its best this season, with several major events captivating the country. Mark McGwire and Ken Griffey Jr. (top center) each achieved home run greatness—McGwire shattered Roger Maris' 37-year old single-season record of 61, and Griffey became only the third player in history to have consecutive 50-homer

BASEBALL IS BACK—BIGTIME!

It would be too simple to say that baseball was back. Over the past four years, the sport had gradually recaptured public interest. Expansion, rising attendance figures and the recognizability of its stars said as much.

But there was something hollow about recent fan attention. Baseball always had a warm appeal. Its stars were like old friends. Yet somehow even as folks returned to ballparks, the sport didn't stir the same joy it had prior to the strike of 1994. The standout individual performances that fueled its gradual renaissance were like Minimalist paintings—cold in their beauty.

Fans couldn't quite forget the money-grabbing fight that rich players and even richer owners had waged for a year. The scars from the work stoppage ran deep.

This season was different, though. The feats that occurred daily and the athletes responsible for them were captivating. Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa smashed the single-season home run record and dueled into the season's final days for the major-league lead. As their friendly competition played out, Cal Ripken Jr. grabbed the spotlight for a day by ending his streak of consecutive games at 2,632. Ripken's decision not to play against the Yankees on Sept. 20 was a shocker and just one more reason baseball was a must-follow sport.

HOMERS ODYSSEY

Still, no story fascinated the public more than the McGwire-Sosa home run chase. The gentlemanly power hitters cracked the long ball with remarkable frequency until, during one week in September, each broke the single-season mark for home runs set by Roger Maris 37 years earlier. It was a wonderful time for baseball. Television networks cut to their at-bats. People stopped work to watch each pitch. Newspapers added extra pages to feed the seemingly endless appetite for details about the pair and their quest.

McGwire garnered the lion's share of the attention for a variety of reasons. He had a longer history than Sosa of hitting home runs. He'd cracked 50 home runs in each of the previous two seasons, making him the only player in major league history to have three consecutive 50-homer seasons. And he hit the ball a long way. Two-thirds of his homers traveled over 400 feet, including four that soared over 500. He also looked and acted the part of home run hero. At 6-foot-5, 230 pounds, he seemed better suited for linebacker than first base. Yet his temperament was all gentleness and dignity. He embraced his celebrity status, only occasionally showing a hint of impatience with the hordes of reporters and fans who trailed him for most of the season. Fans related to his modesty and gracious manner.

Sosa was no less accommodating or pleasant. He accepted gracefully his supporting role to McGwire. "He's the man," he repeated anytime someone asked if he resented McGwire's fame. He also was not above laughing at himself. "Baseball been berry, berry good to me," he said, evoking the old *Saturday Night Live* caricature of an English-impaired Latin ballplayer. Sosa comes from the Dominican Republic and speaks English with a thick accent.

His place in the historic chase was unexpected. Although a well-respected power hitter, he'd never reached 50 home runs. Yet whatever magic enables athletes to make huge and sudden jumps, Sosa found it in June as he set a major league record for home runs in a month. For the rest of the season, he was never more than a handful of home runs away from McGwire.

Indeed, they set a pattern. McGwire would go on a mini-tear and distance himself from McGwire. Sosa would respond with his own streak. It was the greatest imaginable sports theater and a running advertisement for the game.

The second week of September found them together in St. Louis before a sell-out crowd and national television audience. McGwire had 60 home runs and Sosa 58. But McGwire was clearly the more wired of the two. He'd wanted to break the record before St. Louis' knowledgeable fans, who'd welcomed him to their city so warmly just a year earlier. A scorching blast off some Plexiglas windows high in Busch Stadium's leftfield stands tied Maris. McGwire thanked or hugged everyone in sight—even Sosa. The next night, the record was his—at least temporarily, as he curled another ball over the left field wall. At 341 feet, it was his shortest home run of the season. Yet the crowd was overjoyed. Sosa applauded and then walked over to McGwire from his position in rightfield so that they could embrace and exchange celebration routines.

"I don't know how heavy the (Gateway) Arch is, but I just got that off my back," McGwire said.

...AND ON THE 2,633rd DAY, RIPKEN RESTED.

It had to end sometime. So Cal Ripken decided that rather than wait until injury or poor play kept him out of the lineup that he would remove himself from Baltimore's lineup and snap the greatest playing streak in professional sports. Ripken wanted to stop matters on his own terms—at home "before friends and family."

On Sept. 20 he walked into manager Ray Miller's office and told him to find another third baseman for the game against the New York Yankees. Miller crossed out Ripken's name and inserted Ryan Minor, a promising young player who would go 1-4 that night.

Still, the sell-out crowd at Camden Yards, where just three years before he had broken Lou Gehrig's record of 2,131 games, at first couldn't believe that Ripken's name was missing among the starters. Then they realized—as did the Yankees—that the game had assumed historic importance.

The fans called him out of the dugout. They stood and cheered as Ripken waved sheepishly and then bowed. The streak was over at 2,632 games.

Ripken was hitting .275 at the time, and playing a smooth third base. But the Orioles had suffered a disappointing season and the club's critics wondered if Ripken was hurting the club by playing when he would have been better off resting. He disagreed, but he also wondered if the streak was becoming a distraction.

"I firmly believed it was the time to change the subject," he said at a post-game press conference.

There were no tears. A day later, Ripken was back in the lineup to start a new streak.

Cal Ripken Jr. tips his helmet to fans during his record-breaking 2,130th consecutive game. Three years, 15 days and 503 games later, Ripken's streak would end, leaving Albert Belle of the Chicago White Sox as the new active leader in consecutive games played.

PHOTO CREDIT: DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT

***seasons. Kerry Wood** (top right) **tied Roger Clemens' single-game record for strikeouts, recording 20 in May. Juan Gonzalez** (bottom left) **chased Hack Wilson's 190-RBI single-season mark, reaching 101 RBI by the All-Star break. And Trevor Hoffman** (bottom center, pitching) **equaled a major league record for consecutive converted saves. On a sour note, two brawls tarnished a great season—Armando Benitez** (top left) **hit Tino Martinez of the Yankees after allowing a home run, starting a major brawl. And finally, two great players switched teams to propel their new teams to playoff contention—Mike Piazza** (bottom center, candid) **of the Mets and Randy Johnson** (bottom right) **of the Astros.*

ABOVE PHOTO CREDITS (CLOCKWISE): JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT; TOM HAUCK/ALLSPORT; BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT; MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT; STEPHEN DUNN/ALLSPORT; DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT; TOM HAUCK/ALLSPORT; DAVID MADISON/ALLSPORT; JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT; DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT; TOM HAUCK/ALLSPORT; JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT; DAVID MADISON/ALLSPORT; 2000 PENSINGER/ALLSPORT; TOM HAUCK/ALLSPORT; DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT; STEPHEN DUNN/ALLSPORT

DAMN (GOOD) YANKEES!

Yet even without the great home run duel of 1998, the season was enough to get the most cynical fan to tune in. The New York Yankees assembled perhaps the most balanced team in history and set an American League record for wins. No future Hall of Fame players here to intimidate opponents—the 1998 team simply wore down opponents with an endless roster of great veteran hitters and pitchers.

The Yankees clinched a playoff spot earlier than anyone in baseball history and ran away with the American League Eastern Division.

Along the way, New York's David Wells pitched the major league's 13th perfect game, shutting out the Minnesota Twins 4-0. The portly and once underachieving left-hander was carried off the field as a huge Sunday crowd at Yankee Stadium roared.

Chicago Cubs' rookie pitcher Kerry Wood also made headlines, whiffing 20 Houston Astros to tie the major league record for strikeouts in a game. Wood's blazing fastball and Texas pedigree recalled Nolan Ryan and Roger Clemens, the best power pitchers of the last two decades. Showing that his day was far from past, Clemens put together the major league's most impressive run of starting pitching from June to September. Another long-time star, Randy Johnson, was the subject of the season's most intense trade speculation. Johnson, who had performed indifferently as his relationship with Seattle worsened, was supposedly headed to the Yankees or Indians. But he wound up in Houston, where he returned to his old Cy Young Award-winning form.

No one was more dominant at times than Boston's Pedro Martinez. David Cone proved that his post-surgical arm could withstand a complete season, although a run-in with his mother's puppy left him with a nasty gash in his finger and cost him a start. Poor Yankees—they simply inserted Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez, the Cuban exile who was arguably the best amateur pitcher of the past decade. Hernandez was brilliant filling in for Cone, became a fan favorite and promptly won a regular spot in the Yankees' rotation.

Meanwhile, Atlanta's starters continued their recent tradition of excellence, despite a—unbelievable as it seemed—slump by Greg Maddux. Tom Glavine, John Smoltz, Danny Neagle and Kevin Millwood were more than enough to offset the ace's down times.

Relief pitchers also had their moments. Trevor Hoffman, the Padres' fireballing closer, tied a major league record for consecutive converted saves. The Red Sox's Tom Gordon, the Rangers' John Wetteland and the Yankees' Mariano Rivera were also nearly unhittable at times.

YEAR OF THE HITTER

Still, this was a hitter's year. The Padres' Greg Vaughn got involved in the Maris chase for a few weeks; couldn't keep up the long-ball hitting pace; but still enjoyed a career year. And to think San Diego tried to ship him to the Yankees for Kenny Rogers. Albert Belle was only moderately surly and turned in a torrid second half of power hitting. Shortstops Alex Rodriguez and Nomar Garciaparra hit like outfielders. Both drove in over 100 runs.

The American League's third great hitting shortstop, New York's Derek Jeter, couldn't match the pair in power, but he put up some impressive numbers in hits, runs scored, batting and fielding percentage and *GQ* covers. New York's Ray Ordonez was positively Lilliputian at the plate, but led the league in highlight tape fielding plays. Ordonez has not found a body position from which he can't throw out a runner.

Many of the usual suspects were in fine form. The Rangers' Juan Gonzalez looked as if he would break Hack Wilson's single-season record of 190 RBIs before an injury slowed him down at mid-season. He still led the American in RBIs. Baltimore's Rafael Palmeiro and Cleveland's Manny Ramirez turned in exceptional seasons, notching over 40 home runs and 120 RBI apiece. The Indians' Jim Thome was in the middle of a huge season when he was cut down by injury. New York's Paul O'Neill, Bernie Williams and Tino Martinez were as quietly efficient as Metroliners.

OTHER STUFF

Mike Piazza endured the most bizarre week a possible Hall of Fame catcher has ever had. The long-time Dodger, who angered his team with lofty contract demands, was sent to Florida, who promptly traded him to the Mets. Alas, the Piazza-New York match was not made in heaven. The Mets' hard-to-please fans booed Piazza unmercifully when he failed to drive in runs during his first couple of months and didn't give him the credit he was due when he carried the team during a final-month playoff drive.

Andres Galarraga, on the other hand, found greener pastures with his new team, Atlanta. The Big Cat enjoyed proving that he didn't need Colorado's thin air to rank among the NL's top power hitters; not to mention, playing for a team that didn't waste his productivity. Galarraga provided perfect support for the Braves' Chipper Jones, who did little wrong at bat or in the field.

In Houston, the Killer B's, Craig Biggio, Jeff Bagwell and Derek Bell found an A—Moises Alou—to help them go from a solid division winner to a team that could challenge the Braves. San Francisco had Barry Bonds—'nuf said.

And not to be forgotten is Ken Griffey Jr. Baseball's best all-around player seemed strangely bothered by his fame. He initially refused to participate in the All-Star Game home run contest but changed his mind and won it. Later in the season, he needlessly trashed New York, saying that he would not want to play there. Still, his season for the woeful Mariners was nothing short of spectacular. Griffey became the third player in history—after McGwire and Babe Ruth—to hit 50 or more home runs in consecutive seasons. He reached 1,000 career RBIs in less time than all but a few players. And he made a number of the season's most remarkable catches—diving, leaping efforts that showcased his athleticism.

LESS THAN DANDY

Still, not everything was dandy in baseball. The Florida Marlins made no effort to defend their hard-won crown, gutting their roster to save money. By mid-season, Florida was barely over the minimum a major league team could pay a 25-man squad. Did anyone say overboard? The Marlins' firesale left skipper Jim Leyland with a perpetually sour expression and had him talking about leaving, which he did at the end of the season. Readers of a book about the team that portrayed Leyland as a nasty, foul-mouthed tyrant figured he had received his just dessert.

Whatever. The Marlins' decline reminded fans that teams feel little obligation to maintain a team—even a successful one—if they can't make money. Players are disposable. Fan loyalty and team identity are irrelevant when bucks are involved.

That was apparent by the sale of the Los Angeles Dodgers, one of baseball's most storied franchises, to Australian-born media baron Rupert Murdoch. Before the season was over, the struggling Dodgers had changed managers once and general managers twice. Still, Baltimore was far and away the season's biggest disappointment. Despite a hefty payroll of past and present All-Stars, the Orioles fell hopelessly behind both the Yankees and wild card-bound Red Sox by June. Baltimore reached its nadir when Armando Benitez surrendered a gopher ball to New York's Bernie Williams and took revenge by hitting the next batter, Tino Martinez. Both benches cleared and the ensuing brawl resulted in several suspensions and fines. Yet Benitez had violated an unwritten rule by his action and not one Oriole defended him.

A few days later, Anaheim and Kansas City traded beanballs and punches over the last three innings of their game. The total fines and suspensions far exceeded those handed out to the Yankees and Orioles.

The division races were largely decided by early September. New York, Cleveland, Atlanta, Houston and San Diego were miles ahead of the rest of the field. Only the American League West and National League wild card races offered any suspense.

But these were minor imperfections in a memorable season that saw a perfect game, a great record fall, and an amazing streak end. Baseball should be so lucky if all its seasons go so well.

Pro Basketball

THE JAZZ GET *BULLIED*

It seemed almost unfair for Utah. The Jazz led by a point in the waning seconds of the sixth game of their championship series with the Chicago Bulls. But no matter how hard the Jazz tried, no matter what strategy it deployed, it could not escape victimhood.

Chicago had the ball, which meant that Michael Jordan would do something remarkable to send Utah home a loser. The greatest player in NBA history, the athlete of his generation, hardly ever failed in these situations. He was even less likely than usual to come up short in possibly the last game of his career.

The Jazz knew it. Its raucous crowd of over 19,000 knew it. And so did the record audience that was turning in for another dab of Jordan magic.

Jordan had already set up the Bulls' final offensive play with a nifty steal from Utah's Karl Malone. Now as he bounced the ball to the left of the key, a wealthy nation turned its eyes to him. In an instant, he'd cut hard toward the foul line and then just as abruptly shifted back to the left—meanwhile using his non-shooting hand to nudge defender Bryan Russell out of the play. Then he gathered himself, cradling the ball in his huge hands, rose and arced the ball into the basket. The crowd hushed. Jordan stood where he'd landed well after the ball hit the floor; his shooting hand still above his head in follow-through position; savoring the moment.

It was as if he were saying, "here's one more image to remember me by." Seconds later a 3-point shot by Utah's John Stockton had missed the mark. Chicago was king of the hill for the third straight year and the sixth time in eight years.

This latest title was the hardest to come by. The team spent the entire season dealing with gossip about a probable break-up. The ongoing discussion distracted the Bulls and seemed to sap their energy. A year after setting an NBA record for wins, they would lose 10 more games and only tie for the league's best record with Utah, which took playoff homecourt advantage by virtue of sweeping the teams' playoff series.

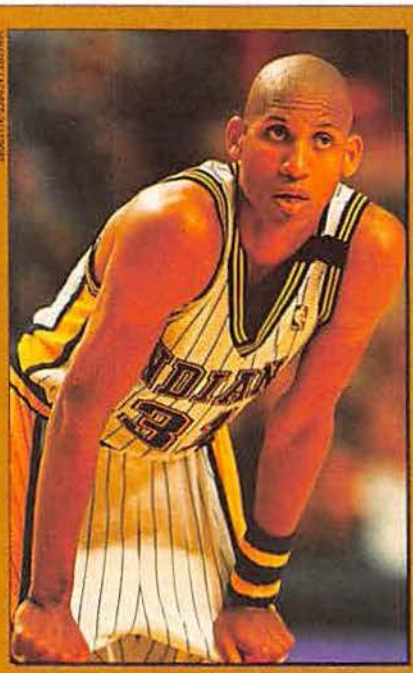
Management's thinking on the subject was difficult to follow. Owner Jerry Reinsdorf and general manager Jerry Krause seemed to shift positions monthly, depending on public and media criticism. The more vehement the outcry against disbanding the NBA's team of the 1990s, the more both backtracked from their stated intent to rebuild.

Jordan and Scottie Pippen, arguably the decade's second best player, were openly disgusted, especially Pippen. For years he'd felt that management under-appreciated and underpaid him. Chicago's seeming indifference about re-signing him was the team's final insult. Indeed, Pippen delayed off-season surgery and thus the start of his season as a protest to the franchise's dealings with him. Center Luc Longley also missed a huge chunk of time after injuring his shoulder in a surfing accident.

The league itself also had its struggles. Low-scoring games and roughhouse—occasionally dirty—play spurred several altercations that hurt the game's image.

Fans also did not cotton to the new wave of players who competed first for themselves and then for their teams. That perception was enhanced just two weeks after the season when owners locked out the players. Money was—as always—the issue. Both sides wanted more of it. The owners sought to limit player salary increases by installing a hard salary cap for teams; eliminating the so-called Larry Bird rule that allows teams to re-sign veteran free agents regardless of salary-cap restraints; and increasing guaranteed rookie contracts from three to five years. Looking to maximize their earning potential, the players opposed all three proposals.

"The current system does not work," said NBA commissioner David Stern. "We can't afford to play next season under the current system." But Billy Hunter, the players' union chief disagreed, saying that "the league is profitable."



Reggie Miller's performance against the Bulls in the Eastern Conference finals solidified his clutch player reputation.

TOP STORIES

1. New Guard

All-Star game rosters underscored the change in the NBA's marquee names. For the first time in years such stalwarts as Hakeem Olajuwon, Charles Barkley, Scottie Pippen, John Stockton and Patrick Ewing were missing from the All-Star rosters.

Olajuwon was nowhere near the player he'd been in leading Houston to its two championships in 1994 and 1995. Stockton, Ewing and Pippen missed large portions of the season with injuries. Barkley accepted a lesser role with Houston. In their place were younger players, Kobe Bryant, Tim Duncan, Eddie Jones, Jason Kidd and Kevin Garnett, to name a few. They were uncertain how to deal with their new status. Bryant, the Lakers' likable and talented swingman, angered Malone by waving off a Malone pick so he could try to beat Jordan one-on-one.

At least Bryant damaged his image in an exhibition game. Allen Iverson spent much of the season self-destructing. No player possesses the Philadelphia guard's talent. But Iverson infuriated 76ers' coach Larry Brown with his crazy shot selection and undisciplined play.

The Knicks-Heat matchup in the playoffs stirred up the continuing rivalry between the teams, as an altercation between the Heat's Alonzo

2. Da Bulls

The team of teams sloughed off its many distractions to defend its title. But it was never an easy ride. Chicago lost steam and the homecourt advantage for the playoffs during the final weeks of the season. An overtime win over the Nets in the first round seemed to awaken them. They handled Charlotte easily. But Indiana forced them to seven grueling games.

The final against Utah was the toughest of its championship series. It dropped the first game, won the next three but then was outplayed in game four. The final two meetings would occur on Utah's home court, perhaps the toughest place in the NBA to win. Utah seemed on its way to sending the series to a nail-biting seventh game until Jordan's flurry of brilliant playmaking ended matters.

3. Poor Denver

Give Denver credit: It played with heart even as the losses piled up. Instead of resigning themselves to the worst record in NBA history, the Nuggets played their best basketball over the season's final quarter.

The laughably mismanaged franchise deserved a harsher fate. Under general manager Allan Bristow, the team had spent the last few years gutting a once sound nucleus and bungling drafts. Last season it allowed the NBA's best defender, Dikembe Mutombo to sign with Atlanta. This season it traded away Antonio McDyess, its one decent scorer and rebounder, to Phoenix.

Without the forward, hard-luck coach Bill Hanzlik had no choice but to start players who would sit near the end of the bench on most other teams. He had little inside game to call on, erratic outside shooting and a raggedy defense that was easily overpowered. At the break Denver was an unseemly 4-42 and Bristow had been fired. But just as it seemed Denver would replace the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers as the league's worst ever, it pieced together a few wins. A victory over Sacramento in April gave the Nuggets 10 wins, one more than Philadelphia. Still, Hanzlik, who would undeservedly lose his job after the season, couldn't resist poking fun at his predicament.

"With the way this season has been, we'll probably be called for running an illegal play and have to forget the game," he said.

4. All That Jazz

This year was not supposed to treat the Jazz

Mourning (left) and the Knicks' Larry Johnson led to suspensions for both. Karl Malone and John Stockton (center) of Utah defied their ages and led the Jazz past the Houston Rockets, San Antonio Spurs and Los Angeles Lakers. Kobe Bryant (right) was no match for the dominant Jazz.

ABOVE PHOTO CREDITS (LEFT TO RIGHT): ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT; JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT; ELSA HASCH/ALLSPORT

kindly. The team that had pushed the Chicago Bulls in the 1997 championship series still revolved around Malone and Stockton. Both were in their mid 30s, an age when legs slow and injuries crop up more frequently.

Indeed, Stockton missed much of the early season with an injury and the Jazz started slowly. Come January, Utah was just 19-11 and only tied for first place with San Antonio in the Midwest Division. Moreover, seven other teams in the league sported better records.

The Jazz promptly turned its season around, though. It would lose only nine more games and pull away in the division race. Stockton was not the player he'd been, ranking just fourth in assists, a category he used to lead every season. But Malone was even better than he'd been during the previous MVP season. He finished third in the league in scoring, averaging 27 points per game, and seventh in rebounding. More importantly, Malone's supporting cast was much improved. Once a weakness, Utah's reserves were among the best in the NBA.

In fact, the Jazz needed all hands on deck to handle Houston in the first round. Down 2-1 in the five-game series, it rallied to win on Houston's court and then comfortably took the deciding game. Malone led both wins, but Shandon Anderson and Bryan Russell chipped in with 15 points apiece in game four, and much-maligned center Greg Ostertag had seven blocks in game five.

From that narrow escape Utah picked up momentum. It pounded the rejuvenated San Antonio Spurs, who had recorded the biggest one-season improvement in league history, in five games. Although San Antonio owed the league's best inside combination in David Robinson and Tim Duncan, the Jazz roughed up the Spurs and held them to under 90 points four times.

Los Angeles was up next. The Lakers had beaten the Jazz in three of their four meetings; it had four All-Stars in Bryant, Jones, Shaquille O'Neal and Nick Van Exel; and it entered the series with momentum after crushing Portland and Seattle.

Utah was unimpressed. In less than a half of the first game of the Western Conference final, it had snapped the Lakers' confidence, opening up a 26-point lead. The 112-77 final count represented the worst loss in the Lakers' storied playoff history. Within a week, Utah had completed a stunning sweep.

5. Kobe, Kobe, Kobe!

The teen whiz started his second season so well that he was dubbed Jordan's likely successor as the game's best and most important player. But he finished it on a less successful note. The All-Star incident with Malone seemed to distract him. He lost his outside touch and committed a batch of turnovers. His play grew so wild at times that Lakers' coach Del Harris, one of his biggest supporters, had to bench him. Not even the playoffs could shake him from his slump. He—and his teammates—provided O'Neal with little scoring or defensive support in Los Angeles' sweep by the Utah Jazz.

Just a few months earlier, Bryant, who'd gone directly from high school to the NBA a year before, could do nothing wrong. Spectacular dunks followed no-look passes, blocked shots and steals. A 30-point effort against the Bulls only enhanced his reputation.

Was Bryant really that good? Playing for the Lakers, one of the league's marquee franchises, of course helped Bryant's stature. Players from losing teams don't garner as much attention. His ease in the spotlight also helped. The articulate Bryant is a media charmer. Eager for a new charismatic star, the league hoped that Bryant's slump was temporary.

6. Sprewell Fall-Out

Golden State's Latrell Sprewell was lucky that he didn't face assault charges for choking his coach P.J. Carlesimo. Instead, he merely had to contend with a year-long suspension, which was shortened by an arbitrator. Yet the incident highlighted how little respect players often have for coaches who displease them.

Carlesimo is by consensus an abrasive sort who rides players in an unpleasant foghorn voice. Still, coaches in past generations could be equally harsh without repercussion.

The lock-out made Sprewell's status uncertain. Several teams had expressed interest in signing him, despite his attack, a reckless driving charge, and a number of other incidents that did not reflect favorably on him. All that merely pointed out that a good jump shot is more important than character.

7. Michael, Michael, Michael!

The question of the year was whether Jordan would retire. The winds seemed to shift every few days. He was leaning toward quitting. Then he wasn't. Then he was.

Assuming that he was going to leave basketball, fans flocked to Chicago games—home and away—to watch his final baskets. Jordan did not discourage the attention. In New York, he wore old-style Air Jordans as a sort of tribute to the city's tough fans whose hearts he'd broken so many times—and then checked in with 40-plus points.

8. Sagging Image

Attendance was down. Sales of merchandise dipped. Fans were disenchanted by the me-first attitude of the younger players who were supposed to carry the league into the next century. Michael was going with no clear successor. Two weeks after the season ended, the NBA had a lock-out on its hands and faced the possibility that the 1998-99 season might not start on time. The league was no longer fantastic.

9. Miami-New York II

They hated each other in 1997. They hated each other this year.

The enmity climaxed during a swing/whiff-fest during the fourth game of their playoff series. Miami's Alonzo Mourning started the festivities by trying to punch New York's Larry Johnson. Before the former Charlotte teammates could be separated, they'd throw several wild haymakers—none connecting. Both were suspended for the deciding game along with the Knicks' Chris Mills, who left the bench. The bout also produced simultaneously the season's most comical and horrible image when Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy grabbed Mourning's leg and was dragged along the floor at Madison Square Garden.

In fact, the bad blood between the teams stems from Miami coach Pat Riley's unpleasant departure from the New York coaching job three years ago. Riley takes special joy in beating his old club, which made it difficult for him to take the Heat opening. And because both teams follow his no-holds-barred style of play, problems have occurred. Last season five Knicks and one Heat player were suspended for fighting and leaving the bench. That and the latest ugliness did not please the image-conscious league, but Knicks-Heat games made for great drama.

10. Reggie, Reggie, Reggie!

He zonked the Knicks at Madison Square Garden—what else is new? This season the Pacers' Reggie Miller turned none other than the Chicago Bulls into a playoff victim. His late streak of hot shooting led Indiana to a surprising win and transformed the Eastern Conference final into a dog fight. Then, in the fourth game, he shoved Jordan out of the way and hit a game-winning 3-point shot. Indiana lost the series, but Miller's reputation as one of the great clutch shooters in league history grew.

MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT

Michael Jordan's NBA Finals-ending shot left fans with something to remember him by. That is, if he retires.

College Football

The Nebraska-Michigan #1 debate was at its peak this season. Led by quarterback Scott Frost (left), Nebraska was victorious over Tennes-

PICK A CHAMPION...

...Do you prefer undefeated Nebraska with its overpowering running game and intimidating defense? Or do you fancy unbeaten Michigan with its opportunistic offense and gritty defenders?

A game between the two would have been satisfying. But alas, no such logical, satisfying conclusion occurred because of the methods used to determine a champion in the most glamorous of college sports. Instead of a tournament that might have led to a Nebraska-Michigan meeting, the NCAA relied on its carefully negotiated coalition agreement.

Voters split their decision. Nebraska won one major poll but Michigan captured the other.

The problem was that Michigan belonged to the Big Ten and that conference—often a factor in the national championship picture—was contractually obligated to send its champion to the Rose Bowl, which was not part of the coalition (that changed after the season). The top-ranked Wolverines headed for Pasadena and a meeting with Washington State, a gutsy and exciting team that was not championship material. Meanwhile, No. 2-ranked Nebraska took on Tennessee, the alleged best available team, in the Orange Bowl, which served this season as the title game.

Both won, and so for a second straight season, college football did not really have closure, as voters could depend on little more than their sentimental bents and biases to choose between the two.

Each school had a good case. The Wolverines had played the tougher schedule. Seven of their 12 games came against nationally-ranked opponents and those did not include bowl-bound Notre Dame. Michigan featured the country's best defense, which had allowed just 114 points and 228 yards per game. It had the country's best player, Heisman Trophy winner Charles Woodson, and an offense that always seemed to come up with a big play when it needed one.

"I have no doubt that we should be the national champion," said Michigan quarterback Brian Griese. "We played the toughest schedule in the country by far. To come to the Rose Bowl and play a very tough Washington State team... Is there anything else you want us to do?"

Nebraska had finished more strongly, always a plus with impressionable voters. It routed Texas A&M in the Big 12 championship game and blasted Tennessee in the Orange Bowl. The Cornhuskers could boast of the far better final statistics—another ballot box winner. They'd averaged 392 yards rushing and 47 points per game.

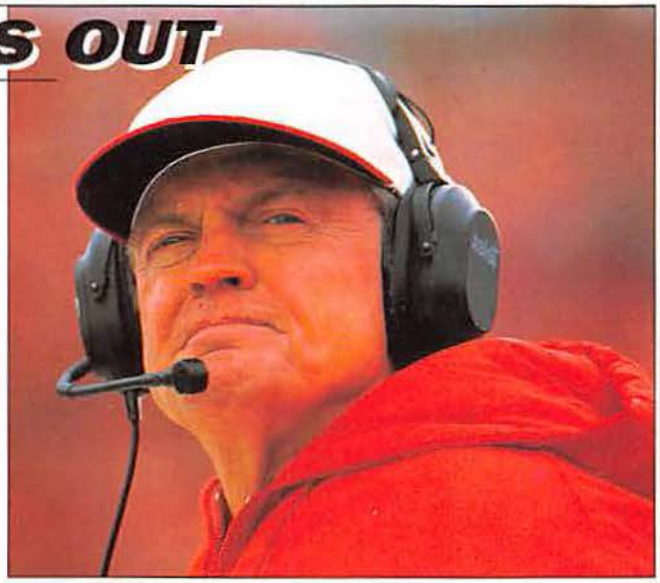
Intangibles were even. Michigan hadn't won a mythical championship since 1948, a long time for such a traditionally powerful program. It entered the Rose Bowl as the country's No. 1 team and seemed to fulfill its requirements for remaining so by winning.

But Nebraska was seeing off Tom Osborne, arguably the greatest coach in college football history. Osborne had won 250 games faster than anyone and missed the final top 20 rankings only twice in 25 years at Nebraska. Polls often favored the departing genius.

"I don't think there's anybody out there with a clear conscience who can say that Nebraska and that great man Tom Osborne doesn't deserve a national championship for this—at least a share," said Nebraska quarterback Scott Frost.

In the end, Osborne received a fitting—and deserved—farewell gift, and Michigan

A WINNER BOWS OUT



Some coaches crave the limelight, a place where they can voice their theories about everything from play action passes to politics. Not Tom Osborne. The Nebraska coach favored a quieter approach, though one that was no less intense than his louder colleagues.

Osborne was demanding—of his team and of himself. In early December he decided that he could no longer make the same all-out commitment to his team. So Osborne announced his retirement after 25 years at the Nebraska helm.

"There are several reasons—my average work day is 14-15 hours per day," Osborne said. "I've had some physical setbacks (bypass surgery in 1985) and I'm okay, but it is not wise for me to push as hard as I have been. I enjoy the game, the strategy, the players and coaches as much as I ever have and I hate to leave that part of it, but I don't want to continue in a role where I'm not actively coaching as I always have."

Few coaches could rival Osborne's Nebraska record. He won three national championships in his final four seasons and finished with the highest winning percentage among active coaches. His teams were ranked in every final AP poll during his tenure. A win this season over Oklahoma made Osborne the fastest to reach 250 career victories.

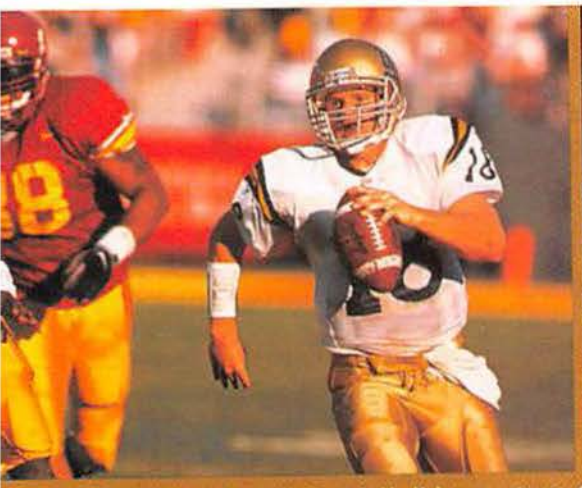
Although his teams were often criticized for their run-oriented style, Osborne was an innovator. He was the first coach to recognize the potential of weightlifting and conditioning training. When he took over, Nebraska players—the few that followed any sort of training program—worked out in a small room. Now the university possesses the country's most impressive facility for getting its athletes into shape and a staff of over 40 full- and part-time strength coaches, nutritionists and sports psychologists.

Assistants praised Osborne's flexibility. He was adept at adding something new to each week's game plan. He consulted his assistants and players regularly about what was working. To keep up with trends in recent years, Osborne recruited speedier players, sticking many of them on defense. The three titles followed.

Critics questioned his handling of players, who had difficulties with the law, most notably troubled running back Lawrence Phillips. They wondered if Osborne had kept them on the team for the sake of winning. But Osborne vehemently defended his methods, insisting that his program "had meted out discipline in a consistent, even-handed manner.

"I do believe that the players feel that I care about them as people and am not using them as pawns in a chess game," he said. "This loyalty certainly has worked both ways. Over the last 7-8 years the chemistry on our team has been exceptionally good and there is no question that players have been willing to sacrifice their own desires and aspirations to an exceptional degree."

PHOTO CREDIT: ELSA HASCH/ALLSPORT



see in the Orange Bowl. Michigan, led by Heisman Trophy winner Charles Woodson (right), defeated Washington State in the Rose Bowl. In other bowl games, Cade McNown (center) helped lead UCLA to a comeback victory over Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl.

ABOVE PHOTO CREDITS (LEFT TO RIGHT): BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT; JON FERREY/ALLSPORT; JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT

could also hoist a title banner.

BOWL BIDS

Nebraska and Michigan merely headed a long list of recently strong teams to capture bowl bids and high rankings. Florida State made its usual romp through the ACC and was followed by North Carolina, which played great defense and beat all comers—except Florida State. The Tar Heels' loss to the Seminoles was especially bitter coming at home, although they rebounded to rout Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl.

Florida, Tennessee and Auburn spent their seasons at or around the lead in the Southeastern Conference with the Vols receiving their annual Gator beating but running the rest of the SEC table, including a 30-29 win over Auburn in the conference playoff. Florida fans, who had taunted Tennessee with chants of Citrus Bowl—a reference to the second-level game that Tennessee had played in the previous two years because of its annual loss to Florida—received their comeuppance as their team accepted the same consolation prize. Like the Vols, the Gators made the most of their visit, defeating Penn State, another annual visitor to postseason play.

The Nittany Lions, who were ranked No. 1 at one point during the season, were also drubbed by Michigan and finished behind the Wolverines and Ohio State in the resurgent Big Ten. The Buckeyes, meanwhile, absorbed their yearly defeat to Michigan—this one on the road—and couldn't handle Florida State in the Sugar Bowl. They simply haven't yet gotten the hang of winning big games.

Virginia Tech's unlikely success story continued, albeit in the dilapidated Big East. The conference's former power, Miami, was still reeling from earlier disciplinary problems, while Syracuse, as has been its trend, hung around the rankings but never made it anywhere near the top.

Meanwhile, Kansas State continued its resurgence under Bill Synder, although it still hadn't figured out Nebraska, which defeated the Wildcats 56-26. UCLA dropped its first two games but won its final 10 behind their fine quarterback Cade McNown. The left-handed McNown, whose playmaking and poise recalled Joe Montana, staged a Montana-like comeback at the Cotton Bowl, bringing his team from 16-0 down to defeat feisty Texas A&M. Washington and Arizona also earned their expected bowl bids, and Colorado State furthered its recent surprising rise in stature.

SURPRISES

As for surprises, the season lacked any real underdog in the mode of Northwestern, which slumped to a losing record after two dream seasons. But if you consider teams that were expected to do well but did badly along with those that were surprisingly good, and a few other interesting story lines, the season abounded with the unexpected. Washington State made the most noticeable breakthrough, riding the big-play passing of fiery quarterback Ryan Leaf to a 10-1 regular season and its first Rose Bowl in decades.

Missouri ended years of mediocrity to earn a bowl invitation. The Tigers deserved some sort of medal for coming closer than anyone else to knocking off Nebraska. In the season's most thrilling game, they led until the final play of the game when Nebraska's Matt Davison, who was not the intended receiver, hauled in a deflected pass. Nebraska tied the game on the ensuing extra point and won in overtime.

Other Big 12 teams thought they had something to crow about but didn't. Texas went from conqueror of Nebraska and a Cotton Bowl spot in 1997 to disaster. Colorado, a pre-season choice to win the whole shebang, lost more than it won. USC geared up for a big season but broke down early and often, which led to a nasty parting of the ways with John Robinson, who had returned for a second stint as coach just a few years before to right the once great program.

Then there was Notre Dame, which surprisingly accepted a bid to the Independence Bowl—not that they deserved better with their erratic team. Less appreciated by their diehard fans was the age discrimination lawsuit filed by a former assistant. The trial, which led to an $86,000 judgment against the school, included allegations that coach Bob Davie had backstabbed former head coach Lou Holtz so that he could take his job. The episode was the latest black eye for a once inscrutable program.

The Heisman Trophy provided a less unpleasant controversy. Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning was supposed to win after passing up the NFL for his senior year and setting a slew of passing records. But Michigan cornerback Charles Woodson became the first defensive player to win the award. (He also returned kicks and took a few turns on offense.) Manning's fans felt robbed and Manning admitted that he was disappointed. Still, it was difficult to argue against the honor belonging to the season's most dominating player.

THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP?

At the Rose Bowl Woodson more than justified his selection. In fact, he may have saved Michigan's season.

Michigan had started nervously. It surrendered a first-period touchdown pass to Leaf, who was fired up and exhorting his teammates at every opportunity. Midway through the first half, Washington State was deep in Michigan territory and looking to extend its lead to two touchdowns. But Woodson snared a Leaf pass in the end zone. The play steadied the Wolverines. They tied the score early in the second quarter on a 53-yard pass play from Griese to Tai Streets. And while Washington State climbed back into the lead midway through the third quarter, Michigan was never in danger of falling too far behind.

Within three minutes of the Cougars score, the Wolverines recaptured the lead for good on a beautiful 58-yard pass play from Griese to Streets. Another Griese scoring toss—this one to Jerame Tuman—gave Michigan the insurance it needed as Washington State converted a field goal and drove to the Michigan 26-yard line before time expired. Michigan was outgained by nearly 80 yards for the game.

By contrast, Nebraska began as if it were trying out for the NFL. Its linemen treated Tennessee's inner defense like a bunch of cabbage patch dolls. The defense was doing the same to Tennessee's linemen and giving Manning little time to find his receivers. Osborne threw in a new wrinkle to his game plan: passing. On Nebraska's first scoring drive, quarterback Scott Frost hit passes of 25, 16 and 22 yards to set up running back Ahman Green's one-yard plunge.

A Tennessee turnover minutes later led to another Nebraska touchdown. The game could have been stopped at that point. Nebraska was rolling up big yardage on nearly every play and teeing off on Manning. By the time Tennessee scored a touchdown late in the first half, Nebraska led 28-3.

Midway through the second half, Nebraska had mounted two scoring drives with such stunning ease that the only question remaining concerned the margin of victory. Hoping to sway voters with a gaudy point total, the Cornhuskers kept pressing on the gas. But to its credit, Tennessee stopped the hemorrhaging and even managed another scoring drive itself.

Green ran for 206 yards to set an Orange Bowl record. Frost scored three touchdowns and threw for 125 yards, just nine fewer than Manning. It was an especially sweet finish for the quarterback. A little more than a year earlier, his career had hit the rocks. He'd been blamed by Nebraska's own fans for a shutout loss to Arizona State and did not seem as if he'd be quarterbacking the team for long. In the end though, Frost was being hailed. Still, attention focused on Osborne, who was still barking directions through the final seconds of his career.

"We did all we could," Osborne said. "We won 13 and that's all we played. I'm very proud of these guys. It's kind of a bittersweet moment. It's a great night for Nebraska."

Hockey

MOTOWN MADNESS

Ticket prices were high. Television ratings were bad. The hockey was boring and the whiff of scandal still permeated the air. Not even the playoffs seemed to offer as many thrills as usual. Only one series went seven games. For a league that was on the rise just a couple of years ago, the NHL has certainly had a letdown.

While the league was mulling over its run of problems, Detroit defended its Stanley Cup in impressive and heart-wrenching fashion. Although still reeling from the accident that incapacitated defenseman Vladimir Kostantinov and trainer Sergei Mnatsakanov, Detroit posted the league's third best record and took its four playoff series with the loss of just six games. The Red Wings were at their best in the finals, sweeping upstart Washington. With their diehard fans thundering away, Detroit presented Kos, who has difficulty communicating and must still use a wheelchair, with the Stanley Cup.

The defenseman, once known as the Vladinator for his rugged play, beamed although he did not seem to fully understand what the hoopla was about. It was a memorable, if bittersweet, close to the forgettable season.

Several underdog teams also had moments to savor. Ottawa, long an NHL doormat, tripped up the New Jersey Devils, the Eastern Conference points leader. Buffalo rode the other-worldly goaltending of Dominik Hasek past Philadelphia and Montreal. Washington, a frequent playoff washout, eliminated Boston, Ottawa, and then somehow found a way to score on Hasek. On a lesser scale, the usually hapless Los Angeles Kings finally found defense and earned a playoff spot; and Edmonton upset the Colorado Avalanche.

The season also offered its share of individual achievement. None exceeded Hasek's play. He won the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's best goalie, and the Hart Trophy, the NHL's MVP Award. As if that were not enough, at mid-season, he led the unheralded Czech Republic to the gold medal in the first Olympic tournament to include NHL stars who were in the middle of their season. The Czech Republic had fewer of these players on its roster than the favored Canadian, American, Russian and Swedish teams. But Hasek allowed just two goals in the medal round against some of the world's best scorers. After a while, other teams seemed resigned to their inability to score on him—a remarkable turn of events considering the quality of the players involved.

European players also dominated the scoring rankings. The Czech Republic's Jaromir Jagr led the league in scoring. Finland's Teemu Selanne ranked first in goals.

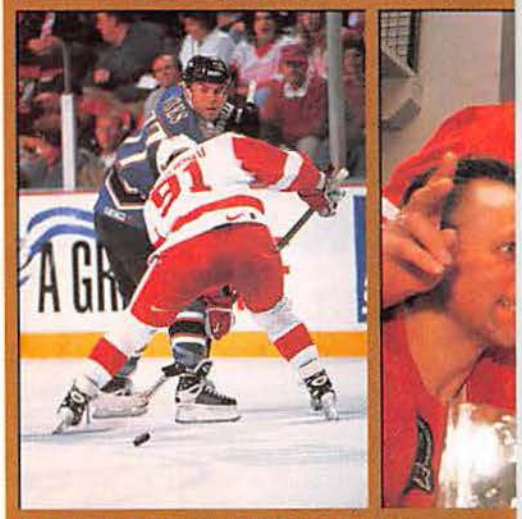
Not that North America went without something to crow about. The North Americans defeated the rest of the world in an exciting All-Star Game. The ageless Great One, Wayne Gretzky, carried the woeful New York Rangers during a belated and fruitless drive for the playoffs. Gretzky finished tied for third in the NHL in points.

Rob Blake of the Los Angeles Kings was named the NHL's and Olympics' top defenseman. Olaf Kolzig spurred Washington's unlikely playoff success, but Chris Osgood did him one better in the Stanley Cup finals.

Other stalwarts had less to crow about, although their problems were always of their own making. The Rangers' Pat LaFontaine, who had struggled with post concussion syndrome, suffered another concussion and retired as one of the top three American scorers in NHL history. Paul Kariya, the Mighty Ducks slick playmaker, was blindsided by Chicago's Gary Suter after scoring a goal. The cheap shot kept Kariya out of the remaining 28 of his team's games.

Yet the Rangers' Brian Leetch, once considered the game's top rushing defenseman, had no one to blame but himself for his horrendous play and a plus-minus rating that sank so low it defied belief. Eric Lindros was not nearly as bad, but Philadelphia's best player was not as good as he'd been.

Still, the award for worst performance belongs to the American national hockey team. The Americans were considered a gold medal contender after winning a huge international tournament in 1997. The team had a great pressure goaltender in Mike Richter, oodles of scoring and a solid defense. Yet the Americans managed just one victory in four games—and that was a listless effort against Belarus, the weakest entry in the final eight-team competition. Subtract that win and the Americans scored only four goals. Then they promptly gave pro hockey a black eye by trashing their rooms and throwing furniture and fire extinguishers out a window. Team members later apologized under duress, but no one confessed to the incident or identified the guilty parties. The incident left some people wondering if the pros deserved another Olympic engagement.



The Detroit Red Wings, led by Scotty Bowman (upper right), won their second consecutive Stanley Cup, defeating the Washington Capitals in four

REGULAR SEASON

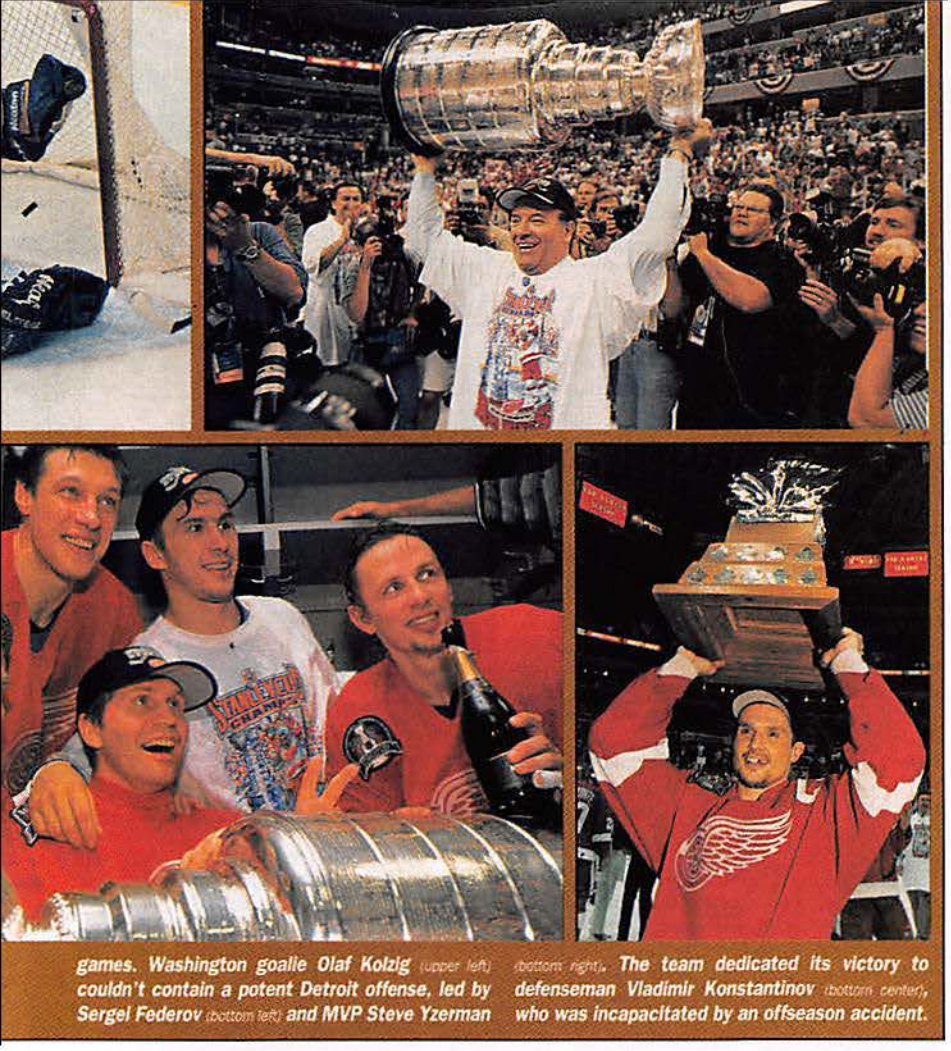
By the start of the year, the division races were already clear. New Jersey and Philadelphia loomed over the rest of the Atlantic Division. Pittsburgh and Montreal were tops in the Northeast. Dallas and Detroit had opened up a big lead over the rest of the Central Division, and Colorado was running away with the Pacific.

Other patterns had also been established. Tampa Bay, a playoff team just a couple of years earlier, could barely win a game. The Rangers were pathetic. The former Hartford Whalers couldn't draw fans in their new incarnation as the Carolina Hurricanes. Toronto and Vancouver ranged from bad to worse. At the end of the regular season, Dallas owned the most wins and points. New Jersey was a close second in points. Detroit was third, followed by Colorado, Pittsburgh and St. Louis.

Meanwhile, Buffalo had rounded into form; that is, it was giving Hasek the minimum support he needed to carry the team. The Sabres lost only 10 games over the last four months of the season, going from outside the playoff running to sixth in the Eastern Conference. Hasek finished with 13 shutouts and a 2.06 goals against average, best and fourth-best in the league, respectively.

DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT

Dominik Hasek of the Buffalo Sabres won the Vezina and Hart Trophies for his sterling regular-season play, but he was solved by Washington in the Eastern Conference Final.



games. Washington goalie Olaf Kolzig (upper left) couldn't contain a potent Detroit offense, led by Sergei Federov (bottom left) and MVP Steve Yzerman (bottom right). The team dedicated its victory to defenseman Vladimir Konstantinov (bottom center), who was incapacitated by an offseason accident.

ABOVE PHOTO CREDITS (CLOCKWISE): CRAIG MELVIN/ALLSPORT; RICK STEWART/ALLSPORT; ROBERT LABERGE/ALLSPORT; ELSA HASCH/ALLSPORT; ELSA HASCH/ALLSPORT

The Ottawa Senators also rallied to finish above .500 and snare the final Eastern Conference playoff spot. The 34-33-15 mark represented the best record in the franchise's six-year history.

The Western Conference included only one minor salvaging mission, although San Jose's qualifying for the postseason had as much to do with Chicago's folding act as its own stellar play. The Sharks finished four games under .500. Yet not all the teams with better records entered the playoffs in optimal shape. Philadelphia had played erratically over the second half of the season and the sainted Lindros was accused of failing to provide the sort of leadership his sliding team craved. Lindros even became the topic of trade rumors, with Phoenix and Toronto his possible destinations. Colorado also seemed to lack direction, although it was difficult to say who was to blame. Coach Marc Crawford said that his top players were underachieving, but Crawford himself earned some of the blame for his team's erratic play. He would leave after the Avalanche was eliminated, although it was not clear whether he had resigned voluntarily or under duress. Meanwhile, no one was pleased by the league's lack of scoring. The NHL responded in the second half of the season by telling officials to call obstruction more closely. The move did pump up scoring somewhat, although not enough.

Three in every four overtime games ended in ties, a sure sign that teams were content to pack in their defenses and wait for a mistake-induced scoring opportunity. Moreover, for the first time in more than two decades, only one player—Jagr—notched more than 100 points during the season. After the season, the league would restrict the size of equipment and uniforms that goalies were allowed to wear. It assumed that the netminders' jumbo-sized shirts and blockers had stopped shots that would have connected in past years.

One other situation bears mentioning, namely the almost season-long contract dispute between Sergei Fedorov and the Red Wings. Fedorov, the team's best player, was looking for big money, but Detroit was unwilling to upset its salary structure by paying him significantly more than any other of the team's players. The sides traded barbs throughout Fedorov's holdout. But when he received a $38-million offer from the Hurricanes, Detroit decided to pony up and matched Carolina's contract bid.

PLAYOFF EARLY ROUNDS

The postseason began with one of those huge upsets that have characterized recent NHL postseasons. Ottawa shocked New Jersey in the first game of their series and beat the Devils in six games. The Senators, who had played the Devils tough all season, felt comfortable matching the Devils defensive-oriented style. Only once did either team score as many as four goals in a game.

Dallas narrowly escaped a similar fate, although its problems stemmed more from a questionable check that put Joe Nieuwendyk out of commission with a knee injury. The incident occurred in the first game of their series with San Jose. The Sharks' Bryan Marchment, who has a reputation for unsavory play, bashed Nieuwendyk, the Stars' leading scorer, into the boards. Dallas players were outraged, accusing Marchment of dirty play. They had a case. Earlier in the season, Marchment had injured Dallas' second most important player, Mike Modano, and drawn a three-game suspension. Nieuwendyk's absence changed the tenor of the series. Dallas no longer had sufficient scoring punch to overwhelm San Jose. The Stars won the second game at home but managed only one goal in two bruising losses in San Jose. It then somehow squeaked out two 3-2 wins, the second of which came on the road in overtime.

Edmonton executed the Western Conference's only upset in the most unexpected of circumstances. The Oilers came from 1-3 down in games to beat the disgruntled Avalanche. Less of a surprise was Buffalo's handling of the slumping Flyers, who managed just nine goals in five games against Hasek. Hasek was equally brilliant in the second round as the Sabres pulled another upset, sweeping Montreal. The Canadians scored only 10 times.

Washington ended Ottawa's dream ride in five games, discovering its own hot goaltender in the process. Olaf Kolzig shut out the Senators for the last two games. In the Western Conference, Dallas topped Edmonton in five taut, low-scoring games.

Detroit had more difficulty in getting by high-scoring St. Louis. The Blues had come out flying in the series, winning the first game 4-1. But Detroit roared back to take the next three. The third Red Wings victory produced the play of the postseason. With the score tied early in the third period, Fedorov made a perfect pass while in a seated position and with two Blues trying to wrest the puck from him. The pass found teammate Tomas Holmstrom, who gave the puck to Vyacheslav Kozlov, who scored. Fedorov added a shorthanded and empty-net goal later in the period. Detroit dropped the fifth game in Detroit but closed the series out in St. Louis in the sixth game.

The Detroit-Dallas Western Conference final was something of a letdown. The games were competitive, but the sort of drama and spectacular plays that were expected for a series between the defending champs and the team most likely to dethrone them were missing. The 4-2 Detroit win was not an event to be recalled with the great matchups of NHL playoff history. The Red Wings won by making more of their scoring chances.

Washington became the first team—international or NHL—to solve the riddle of Hasek. It kept players in front of the goal to pester and distract him. Hasek let in a couple of soft goals. At the other end, the Capitals played airtight defense and again received exceptional goaltending from Kolzig. Washington won in six.

STANLEY CUP FINAL

Even Washington coach Ron Wilson acknowledged that his team might be swept by Detroit. The Red Wings had finished 11 points ahead of the Capitals during the regular season. They were playing in their third final in four years and were oozing confidence after defeating tough Blues and Stars teams. The Capitals were happy to have advanced so far after years of falling short in the playoffs.

In fact, it was Washington's first Stanley Cup final appearance in its 24-year history. Still, the Capitals started well, controlling the first 10 minutes of game one. But from there everything went downhill. Detroit scored twice by the end of the period, won game one and never looked back. The Red Wings finished off the series sweep with a dominating 4-1 win in game four. The victory made Detroit the first team in six years to defend a championship and gave coach Scotty Bowman eight Stanley Cups, tying him with the great Toe Blake for the most in NHL history.

Yet this was not a night to think about records; rather, the Red Wings, as close-knit a unit as there is in professional sports, dedicated their win to Konstantinov. "This one was for No. 16 (Konstantinov's number), we did it for him," said Viacheslav Fetisov as Konstantinov smiled absently and the cheers cascaded down.

College Basketball

RALLY CATS

Some teams are difficult to like—the New York Yankees in baseball; the Montreal Canadians in hockey; the Boston Celtics in pro basketball: Kentucky in college basketball. They're too coldly efficient. They win too much.

Yet this season's NCAA championship Kentucky team was different. Far from its blueblood predecessors, it lacked superstars and a seemingly pre-ordained path to a title. The Wildcats had to struggle and claw for everything they earned. They weren't expected to finish first so they played with an underdog's feistiness, coming back from double-digit deficits in their last three tournament games. Their grittiness made them likable right down to their first-year coach Tubby Smith, the first African-American to guide the once bigoted program.

"Rally 'Cats," the *Los Angeles Times* dubbed them in a headline.

It was a strangely appropriate persona for the traditional basketball powerhouse, which won its second national championship in three years and seventh overall, the second most in college men's basketball. Only UCLA has more.

Kentucky's win was also a fitting end for an exciting and mildly unpredictable college basketball season. Traditionally strong programs topped the rankings. East Coast titans North Carolina and Duke joined Kentucky in the Final Four. The three teams totaled more Final Four appearances than any other trio. Arizona, the defending champs, and Big Eight winner Kansas jousted for the country's top ranking for much of the season and both earned regional top seeds. UCLA reached the Sweet 16. Michigan and Purdue, no strangers to success, shared the Big Ten title. Connecticut was again the Beast of the Big East.

What did all this mean? The loss of so much talent to the pros may shuffle the deck more often than before, but it has not hurt the best teams, who have simply learned to restock more quickly.

SEASON OF SURPRISES

Then again, the season also offered its share of surprises and interesting plot lines. None was more intriguing than Utah, Kentucky's victim in the final. The Utes seemed to be in a rebuilding mode after losing their previous season's best player Keith Van Horn. But great coaching and team chemistry, a fierce interior defense and the rising stardom of point guard Andre Miller pushed Utah to the greatest season in school history. Had coach Rick Majerus substituted a little more liberally in the final, he might have even beaten Kentucky.

Stanford parlayed its deep and enormous front line to its first Final Four since 1948 and had an even better chance to defeat Kentucky. Jim Harrick, the disgraced coach of UCLA, found new life at Rhode Island, which shocked Kansas and came within seconds of reaching the Final Four. Valparaiso, which lost to Rhode Island, was the feel-good tale of the tournament with its father-son combination of Homer and Bryce Drew. In the first round, the little Indiana school shocked Mississippi when father Homer ordered a desperation, last-second play and son Bryce swished a 3-point shot. Valpo upended Florida State in the next round and played Rhode Island down to the wire with Harrick's son Jim helping Valparaiso as an assistant coach. Talk about small worlds.

Princeton fielded its best team in years. It beat two of three ACC teams—narrowly losing to North Carolina on the road—and was ranked among the country's top 10 teams. Its motion offense was a joy to behold for everyone except its opponents. In one game all of its baskets came on assists. But the Tigers could also play up-tempo. They pressed the former kings of press, Nevada-Las Vegas, into first-round submission, scoring 20 consecutive points in the first half, before Michigan State's Mateen Cleaves ended its season with some pinpoint long-range shooting.

Other teams of note: Maryland pushed Arizona hard and seemed to be a team on the rise. West Virginia ousted Cincinnati in a duel of last-second shots. The last basket was unintentionally banked in from 30 feet away. UCLA lost its starting center in an off-court mess that was never fully explained, as administrators tried to minimize the problem. Still, the team reached the Sweet 16 behind some gutsy if somewhat helter-skelter play. Finally, Kansas coach Roy Williams offered the season's most poignant moment. With a face that stretched from Topeka to the Pacific, he wondered aloud whether his ambition to win an NCAA tournament was sabotaging his team. The bet here is that he'll win one eventually.

STANDARD SEEDING

Seeding offered little suspense. Arizona, Kansas, Duke and North Carolina played demanding schedules and still totaled a meager 13 losses among them. The second seeds, Kentucky, Purdue, Connecticut and Cincinnati, were also fairly straightforward, although Stanford, which had started 18-0 in the beefed-up Pacific 10, had a slight case for a higher seeding than Purdue. Prairie View A&M snuck in as the only team with a losing record (13-16) after coming from 20 points down to win the Southwest Athletic Conference tournament.

Arizona was the favorite. With its starting lineup and top reserve back, it had experience that no other team could match. It had the country's best point guard in Mike Bibby and one of its best shooting guards in Miles Simon. A third player, Michael Dickerson, was merely the team's best all-around talent. The Wildcats had cruised to a conference championship and looked devastating at times. Still, for much of the season they also seemed as if they were holding back, waiting for tournament time to spread their wings.

A 27-2 streak against feisty Illinois State in the second round said as much. The game was tied early in the second half and less than two minutes later Arizona was up by nine and pulling away. "It's hard for people to stay with us when we come out with that kind of intensity," Bibby told reporters.

A week later, Arizona pieced together a late 22-11 run to beat down Maryland. "I've always believed that the defending champion is the team with the greatest advantage," said Maryland coach Gary Williams.

Rick Majerus (left) had a plan to handle the high-scoring Arizona trio in the NCAA West Regional final, but he could never have imagined how well

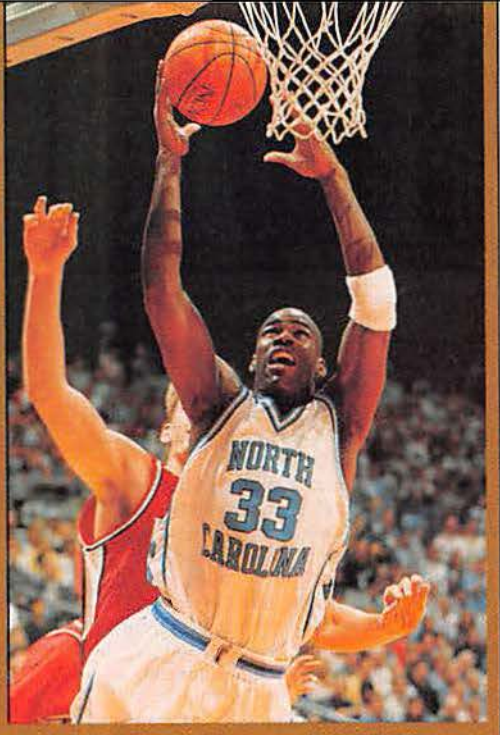
TOO MUCH MAJERUS

Rick Majerus wasn't listening. The Utah coach figured that he could handcuff Arizona's high-scoring threesome with a triangle and two defense that would keep a man on Bibby, Simon and Dickerson at all times. Yet Majerus could not have imagined how well his scheme would work.

The trio hit just 6-of-36 field goal attempts in a stunning 76-51 Utah rout. Arizona fell behind early, trailed by 9 points at the half, and never mounted a charge. "They beat us every way possible," said Bibby, who went 3-15.

Utah would face North Carolina, the second favorite in most circles. The Tar Heels had played impressively at times and shown remarkable grittiness when they weren't at their best. In the second round they nipped interstate rival North Carolina-Charlotte in overtime in one of the tournament's best games. Then they eased past Michigan State and Connecticut. The victories were a pleasing gift for Billy Guthridge, a long-time assistant coach who had taken over from the revered Dean Smith. Guthridge hardly looked or sounded the part of a big-time college coach. He was already over 60, balding and he wore glasses. He was also understated, dryly funny with the press and not given to the bombastic speeches of some of his colleagues.

But when the horn sounded, Guthridge couldn't contain himself. He beamed, punched the air and shook anyone and



It would work. Even Mike Bibby (center), who was 3-for-15 in field goal attempts, had to give the Utah coach credit. Utah then held College Player of the Year Antawn Jamison (right) of North Carolina to 16 points in their Final Four matchup, earning the team a spot in the championship game.

ABOVE PHOTO CREDITS (LEFT TO RIGHT): JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT; TODD WARSHAW/ALLSPORT; TODD WARSHAW/ALLSPORT

everyone's hand within reach. "I think we played a great game and beat a great team in Connecticut," he said.

The other semi would pit Kentucky and Stanford, both of whom had pulled victory from defeat in nerve-racking ordeals that represented college basketball at its best. Kentucky overcame a 17-point, second-half deficit in defeating Duke. The win, which was secured only after a last-second Duke shot missed, was pleasing revenge for the buzzer-beating loss to Duke's Christian Laettner-led squad in the 1993 tournament.

Stanford scored 14 points in the final 1:12 to beat Rhode Island 79-77. Included in the furious comeback was a controversial non-foul call that led to a Stanford steal and basket. The game also provided two of the tournament's ugliest moments. With seconds remaining and Tyson Wheeler bricking free throws at the line, Stanford guard Arthur Lee made a choking sign to Stanford fans. Then after the game, Rhode Island's Jim Harrick cursed officials for blowing the steal call.

The two Final Four games also offered their share of drama. Utah shocked North Carolina with an opening 16-2 run and then clamped down on Antawn Jamison, the College Player of the Year. Jamison finished with 14 points and North Carolina shot a miserable 11-36 from the field. In the other semifinal Kentucky and Stanford played a thriller. Stanford led for 30 minutes of regulation and by as much as 10 points in the second half. Kentucky took the lead in the final minutes but Stanford knotted the score to send the game into overtime. Kentucky sprinted in front again in overtime and fought off a furious Stanford rally that ended when a desperation 65-foot shot fell short.

WEARY UTES; REVVED UP 'CATS

In the final, Utah continued its superb play. It pounded the ball inside to center Michael Doleac and kept Kentucky from using its devastating fastbreak. A 28-14 run put Utah in front by nine points. At the half, it had extended that to 10. No team had ever lost a final after leading at the half by 10 points or more.

But Smith was not discouraged. He figured that his team would start hitting shots and that its superior depth would eventually take its toll on Utah. With a little over 13 minutes remaining his patience began paying off. Utah lost a fraction of its defensive intensity and Heshimu Evans, a transfer from Manhattan College and the team's top reserve, promptly hit three straight shots, two of them 3-pointers. A 9-0 run a few minutes later gave Kentucky its first lead of the half.

Utah charged back to go ahead by four points, but the Wildcats were clearly controlling the game's tempo. Fittingly, Steve Sheppard gave the Wildcats a lead they would not relinquish. Sheppard, the team's leading scorer, had delivered an impromptu pep talk when the situation looked darkest for Kentucky. He would win the MVP award.

The suddenly revved-up Wildcats would pull away in the final minutes, while weary Utah sagged. "Maybe I should have gotten some other players in there, maybe earlier in the game," said Majerus.

Meanwhile, Smith was so happy he didn't know quite what to say. "I asked coach Newton, 'Did we really win the national championship?' Somebody pinch me," Smith said.

It was quite a change for Kentucky. Just three decades ago, Kentucky would not allow blacks anywhere near its beloved basketball program. Now a black coach had led the school to the most memorable championship in its history. The crowd chanted "Tubby."

"I never look at it like it's me, because it's not," he said. "It's the players, it's the program."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CHAMIQUE & THE LADY VOLS

Despite having only one senior on its roster, the University of Tennessee women's basketball team dominated the season like no other. Its final statistics speak for themselves.

The Lady Vols finished 39-0, the best in NCAA history for a men's or women's basketball team. They scored nearly 90 points a game while surrendering just 58. They shot ten percent better than their opponents and averaged nearly 10 rebounds per game more. In the NCAA championship game, they beat a Louisiana Tech squad that had won 16 straight games by 18 points and could have widened the margin if they'd wanted to.

"That's the greatest women's basketball team I've ever seen," said Leon Barmore, Louisiana Tech's highly respected coach.

Tennessee won a record sixth NCAA crown. It was just the third team to finish without a loss.

Yet even as her team was running away with its games, coach Pat Summitt rode her players as if they were slumping. No one was spared—not even Chamique Holdsclaw, perhaps the greatest women's college player in history, who was told that she needed to work on her defense. It was tough to find fault with the rest of Holdsclaw's game. She averaged 23 points and 9 rebounds and did even better in the postseason, despite having a minor shooting slump.

Indeed, Holdsclaw might have shot airballs all night long and Tennessee would not have been much the worse. Kellie Jolly and the two other "Meeks," Semeka Randall and Tamika Catchings, all belonged among country's best players.

The Lady Vols lacked challenges. Only North Carolina in the regional final scared them, although Tennessee brushed away the threat the way a horse might shoo away a fly.

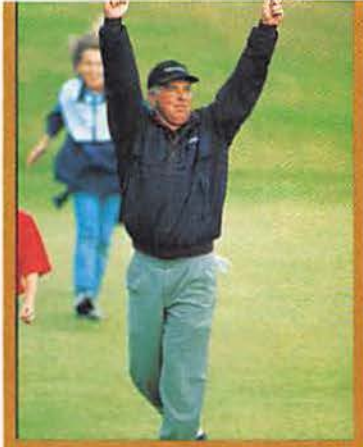
In the semifinals, Tennessee opened a comfortable nine-point lead over Arkansas and then stepped on the gas to win by 28. Along the way, it forced Arkansas, a normally solid team, into 28 turnovers and 18-59 shooting.

Tennessee didn't wait to bury Louisiana Tech, which entered the game with a 31-3 record and nearly as impressive statistics in shooting, defense and rebounding as Tennessee's. Tennessee led 42-17 by the middle of the first half and was never in danger of losing its tight grip on the game. Holdsclaw shot just 11-25; but Catchings, the daughter of former NBA center Harvey Catchings, scored 27 points to lead the way.

CHAMIQUE HOLDSCLAW

JAY CONNELLY/SPORTLOOK PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

Golf



Mark O'Meara (left) celebrated his victory at the 1998 British Open, winning despite extremely poor weather conditions; not one player made

It was a good year for steady, hard-working, likable sorts on the PGA Tour. Mark O'Meara, known best by the public as Tiger Woods' best friend, won the first major title of his career at the Masters.

Three months later, he took his second, the British Open. Lee Janzen, a consistent winner on the tour in recent years, bagged his second major title, the U.S. Open, when the rest of the field stumbled on San Francisco's juiced-up, Olympic Club course.

Fiji's Vijay Singh, widely respected for his work ethic, finally broke through in the majors category at the PGA Championships.

Along the way, Jack Nicklaus gave fans another thrill long after he was supposedly capable of competing with the younger set. At age 58, he finished an amazing sixth at the Masters. He was not the dominating force on the PGA Senior Tour, though. That honor went to Hale Irwin with Gil Morgan a competitive second. The pair split the four majors on the senior tour.

Meanwhile, Korea's Se Ri Pak captured two of the majors on the LPGA Tour, including the U.S. Women's Open in a 20-hole playoff. A week after the Open, Pak set a tour record with a 61 and tied another mark for scoring at a tournament.

John Daly provided one of the sports year's saddest moments when he got the shakes and started crying uncontrollably at the Vancouver Open. As for Woods, he didn't win as often, and sales of his signature apparel were reportedly disappointing. But he enjoyed a fine year, finishing in the money at a slew of events.

THE MASTERS

Mark O'Meara is used to being upstaged. His closest friend on the tour is Tiger Woods. So it did not seem entirely out of place that he would share the spotlight during the brightest moment of his fine 19-year career. O'Meara sank an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole to win the Masters, his first major title. But attention rested almost equally on the sixth-place finisher, Jack Nicklaus.

Although 58 and hobbling from a sore hip that would end his competitive year in mid-summer, Nicklaus summoned some of his old magic to turn Augusta upside down. Had he made a couple of relatively easy putts, Nicklaus might have even won. He drew within two strokes on the final day as legions of fans hung on his every stroke. They rewarded him with thunderous ovations that rattled the rest of the field.

Meanwhile, O'Meara played nearly flawless golf. When he teed off for his final round, he trailed third-round leader Fred Couples by two strokes. Three birdies in his first four holes tied him. But at the turn he was down a stroke and fell two behind when he bogied the 10th—his only mistake of the day.

Couples alternated sheer brilliance and horrifying blunders. He birdied four holes on the front nine and carded an eagle on the 15th. But he hurt his chances badly with bogies on the first and ninth holes and a double bogie on the 13th.

David Duval, who'd hovered at or near the lead throughout the tournament, sabotaged his chances with an ill-fated bogey on the 16th. Still, the three players were tied heading into the final hole. But O'Meara settled matters with his putter, which seemed fitting. He had needed only 107 putts throughout the tournament and three-putted just once.

"That's just how he putts," Duval told reporters. "He's one of the best putters out here."

Easygoing by nature and popular on the tour, O'Meara didn't lose his sense of humor after his feat. For years he'd been asked why a player of his ability hadn't won a major before.

"If I knew, I would obviously have solved the problem," he said.

U.S. OPEN

For three rounds the only person who found the measure of the difficult Olympic Club course was Payne Stewart. He'd led almost from the start. At 3-under par he was the only player in the field who was shooting a negative number.

But Lee Janzen had already won a U.S. Open and knew how difficult it was to complete a wire-to-wire victory on the traditionally tough Open courses. He played intelligent, low-risk golf. In the end, Janzen's patience paid off as he added the 1998 title to the one he'd captured at Baltusrol in 1993.

"I wasn't thinking about winning when I teed off today," Janzen said. "I didn't want to jinx myself."

TICKET TO RIDE?

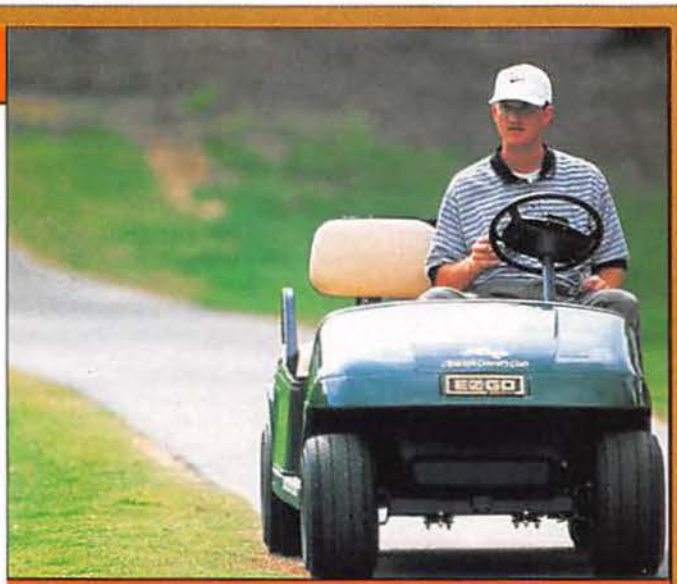
The golf issue of the year revolved around a cart. Should Casey Martin be allowed to use one during PGA events? Martin, a talented young golfer with a circulatory problem that makes it difficult for him to walk, felt the Americans With Disabilities Act qualified him to ride around courses. The PGA Tour said that allowing a competitor to use a cart was unfair to the other players. In an emotional hearing before a Eugene, Ore., judge, Martin bared his badly shriveled leg and spoke of the constant pain he suffered.

Martin does not have a vein running along the bone of his lower right leg, so that blood returning to the heart must travel through a muddle of small veins. Because blood doesn't flow as it would in a person without the condition, which is called Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber Syndrome, Martin's leg muscles have atrophied. Walking aggravates his problem.

"It's so painful to walk," Martin said. "When I ride at least it gives it a reprieve."

The PGA Tour brought out some heavy hitters to make its case, including Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer, who gave videotaped testimony. The judge also heard from Ken Venturi, who had almost collapsed while winning the 1964 U.S. Open in extreme heat. They said that granting Martin the right to ride would compromise the integrity of the game.

Yet in the end, Martin's argument won the day. The judge ruled in his favor. For the rest of the year, Martin rode a cart and played capably on both the Nike and PGA tours.



Casey Martin earned the right to ride a cart around courses during PGA events. His court battle was met with tremendous opposition from PGA veterans, including Ken Venturi, the winner of the 1964 U.S. Open who almost collapsed due to severe heat.

PHOTO CREDITS (CLOCKWISE): CRAIG JONES/ALLSPORT

par. O'Meara also snagged the Masters title, but Jack Nicklaus (center) was the big story there, nearly pulling out a victory and finishing sixth. And Lee Janzen (right) pulled off a remarkable comeback at the U.S. Open, winning his first U.S. Open title since his 1993 Baltusrol victory.

ABOVE PHOTO CREDITS (LEFT TO RIGHT): CRAIG JONES/ALLSPORT; HARRY HOW/ALLSPORT; ANDREW REDINGTON/ALLSPORT

Stewart couldn't help entertaining such thoughts. He was four shots in front when he teed off on Sunday and extended his lead to five after three holes. By that time, Janzen lay a whopping seven strokes back. Yet the tenor of the tournament would shift on the next hole as Stewart committed a bogey while Janzen checked in with a birdie. Stewart, who'd been parring everything in sight, was suddenly unsure of himself. He hit a bogey on the seventh hole and led by just two shots at the turn. His lucked turned against him three holes later when a perfect drive landed in a divot that had been filled with sand. He bogied the hole.

Meanwhile, Janzen was picking up steam. He received a huge break on the sixth hole when his drive landed in a tree but then miraculously bounced back onto the fairway just as Janzen was about to tee up another ball at the cost of a stroke.

He caught Stewart at the unlucky 12th and took the lead on the 13th. Although Stewart rattled home a beautiful birdie putt on the 14th—his first birdie in 24 holes—to tie the players, he bogied the 16th and could not recover. He finished with five bogies and just the one birdie—a disheartening 74 that was six shots worse than Janzen's two-under par 68.

The low scoring highlighted the real star of the event: the course. Officials at the Olympic Club in San Francisco let the rough grow to heights seldom seen on a golf course, but cut the greens so short that putts at times appeared to roll on ice. Pin placements were also a subject of controversy. Stewart watched a birdie putt from eight feet away trickle 20 feet beyond. He took a bogey.

"It was not golf," said John Daly. "If they want to have a major, let's go to Disney World and play putt-putt. It's ridiculous." There was nothing absurd about the tournament's ending, though. Janzen's win showed that good things happen to people who keep their poise.

BRITISH OPEN

Golf in Great Britain remains unpredictable. Weather conditions and bumpy links courses may right errant shots or turn easy ones into adventures. Winds swirl unpredictably, often changing direction from one moment to the next. The British Open typically requires special patience if not humor.

This year's tournament at the Royal Birkdale Golf Club was even more difficult than most, which made Mark O'Meara's victory all the more understandable. O'Meara has built his highly successful career on steady, unassuming play. When he finally won a major earlier in the year at the Masters, he dispelled the only mark against him: that he hadn't won one of golf's really important tournaments.

The pressure was off. At age 41, nearer to the senior tour than his rookie year, he could relax. He and his buddy Tiger Woods practiced and went fishing the week before the tournament.

O'Meara opened with a comfortable, quiet 70 that kept him within shouting distance of the early leaders but off the media's radar screen. Otherwise, the weather was the story—that is, the sunny, windless day that seemed more apt for Tucson and sent scores plummeting to Buick Open levels. Woods shot a 66 and trailed two other players.

A day later, the weather was heavy on more typical English fare—cold, rain and heavy winds. Only seven players broke par 70. Woods ballooned to a 74. O'Meara snuck in with a 72 and was thrilled.

His matching score the following day was cause for nothing less than a celebration. Not one player broke par on a day that was better suited for football. Twenty-three players, part of the crème de la crème of golf, shot 80 or better. Phil Mickelson had an 85. Defending champion Justin Leonard carded an 82.

Woods checked in with a 77 and laughed about it. His partner for the round, former world number one Nick Price, scored an 82.

"I lost a little bit of confidence and suddenly—82," Price said. "I've probably had worse rounds as a pro, but not too many."

Meanwhile Brian Watts, an American who had enjoyed his biggest success in Japan, and Justin Rose, a 17-year-old amateur from England, were the unlikely leaders.

Rose would finish a remarkable fourth. Watts would hang on tenaciously and admirably under the most pressure-filled conditions he had ever experienced. Woods, who was five strokes behind Watts at the start of the day, would play the most impressive round of the tournament, a high-risk, breathtaking 66 in still less than ideal weather. He would place second.

Yet, while Woods charged from behind, O'Meara adopted a more gradual approach to comeback golf. His steady, solid shotmaking scored a 70 and knotted him with Watts. The pair played off on the last four holes. O'Meara's experience and savvy paid off immediately. He birdied the 15th and never looked back.

"To win two major championships in one year—if I could put my finger on it, I'd done it earlier," O'Meara said. "I think maturity and time and just a little bit of patience—and realizing if I just hang in there, usually when I give myself a chance, I can get the job done."

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

After two majors of impossible courses and recreational-level, high scores, the pros enjoyed a little relief at the PGA Championship. They did not have to contend with ice-like greens, bushy rough or high winds. Golf at the Sahalee Country Club resembled the usual PGA Tour fare with its brilliant shotmaking and negative scores.

Fiji's Vijay Singh scored best of all. He led or tied for the lead over the final three rounds in winning his first major title. It was not a surprising result, though. Singh has forged a reputation as one of the tour's hardest-working players. He spends hours on the practice range and often shifts hotel furniture so that he can practice his swing and putting.

He opened with a workmanlike par 70, four strokes behind Tiger Woods, who looked as if he would dominate the tournament. But Woods faltered and Singh found a wonderful rhythm on his swing. He birdied five of the first nine holes during the second round, matching Woods' first-round 66 and taking over the lead. He followed that with a 67 and entered the final day tied with Steve Stricker for the lead.

But Stricker played erratically, bogeying four holes. Meanwhile, Singh was almost unflappable. He bogied one hole, but had three birdies. By the turn, he'd opened up a two-stroke lead. A final birdie on the 15th hole iced the win for him. Singh spoke in his usual measured tones, but was obviously excited about his triumph. He'd played all over Southeast Asia, honing his game before coming to the U.S. "It's amazing," he said. "I can't believe that I've won this tournament."

EZRA O. SHAW/ALLSPORT

Vijay Singh's dedication and hours of practice paid off, as he won his first major title at the PGA Championship.

International Events

WINTER OLYMPICS

POSTCARDS FROM NAGANO

In memorability, Nagano falls somewhere in the vast middle of Olympic Games. It could not match Lillehammer, Norway, the most magical winter or summer Olympics ever. But it was also—thank God—a huge improvement over Atlanta, the all-time worst.

Nagano underlined something that the world already knew about the Japanese. They're unfailingly polite and know how to organize an event. Bus drivers arrived on time. Computers worked. Volunteers actually seemed to know what they were doing. Make no mistake though, the 1998 Winter Games offered the usual quota of great moments, records and heartbreaking disappointments. Of course, it would have been nice for Americans to have seen more of the events live. The huge time difference and some highly questionable decisions by CBS prevented fans from seeing action live or even enjoying the drama of the most important events.

Too often viewers already knew what had happened long before they saw the network's coverage. Excessive advertisements and a propensity for focusing on just a few sports in which Americans had done well also prevented fans from getting the full flavor of the Games.

Anyway, American women provided the majority of the thrills for the U.S. Tara Lipinski turned in the most electrifying performance ever in women's Olympic figure skating, overtaking teammate Michelle Kwan with a near perfect long program. The U.S. national hockey team got the upper hand in its tense rivalry with Canada and gave women's hockey a huge push. Picabo Street fought off the after-affects of a career-threatening knee injury and horrible crash a month earlier to win the super-giant slalom. Christine Witty captured two medals in speed skating. Nikki Stone came back from near retirement to win a gold in aerials.

For the men, high points were far more infrequent. Figure skating and Alpine skiing were wash-outs. Even speed skating, normally a reliable source of medals, did not produce anything. Then there was the U.S. men's hockey team. They arrived in Nagano amidst great fanfare, a gold medal possibility in the first Dream Team tournament. But the Americans, all of whom were NHL veterans, stumbled and bumbled their way to three losses in four games and then trashed their rooms.

No player fessed up to the incident or was willing to say who was responsible. It was a cowardly display all-around and left even those fans who'd been looking forward to the tournament of all hockey tournaments wondering whether it was worth the effort. Still, there was far more good than bad about these Games.

Here are a few postcards to jog your memory about Street, women's hockey, Maier and the unfailingly hospitable Japanese.

DAY 1

Japan opened its arms to the world with a subdued and tasteful ceremony that contrasted the ode to tackiness in Atlanta two years ago. A bell toned in a nearby Buddhist temple. The 6-8, 550-pound sumo wrestler Akebono, a native Hawaiian who had become the first foreigner to reach the highest level in his profession, stomped dramatically into the stadium in an age-old ritual designed to drive away evil spirits.

Although dressed only in a ceremonial wrestling silk, Akebono seemed oblivious to the cold. "Ten minutes of cold, a lifetime of memory," he said later.

The Olympic torch was carried into the stadium by Chris Moon, an Englishman who had lost his right leg and arm in a land-mine explosion. Moon passed it to Midori Ito, Japan's beloved former silver medalist in figure skating. Dressed magnificently in red and white robes, Ito opened her arms and then lit the cauldron.

DAY 2

A Russian cross-country skier, Olga Danilova, won the Games' first gold medal in the 15-kilometer event. Preliminary action in hockey and snowboarding also got under way. Heavy snow postponed the game's glamor event, the men's downhill.

DAY 3

Snow is a good thing at the Winter Olympics, right? Not always. The weather—which included a nasty fog—forced postponement of the men's downhill for a second day as well as the women's super-giant slalom. Racers and Olympic officials began to worry about being able to fit in all 12 Alpine racing events. The Games saw their first world record as Gianni Romme obliterated the old mark in the men's 5,000 speedskating event.

DAY 4

Bulgaria: one gold medal. The Ukraine: one silver medal. The United States: zero medals.

The Olympics did have its first controversy: The U.S. and Canadian teams protested the gold medal of luger Georg Hackl, insisting that the German had used Adidas boots that were not available to the rest of the competition. The protest was not upheld, which gave Hackl a career record of three gold medals in his event.

DAY 7

Triumph and near tragedy. Picabo Street won the United States' first medal, a gold in the women's super-giant slalom. Just 15 months before Nagano, Street had ripped up her left knee. Recovery went slowly and the participation of America's best woman Alpine skier was not assured. Then a month before the Games, when she finally seemed to have things going her way, she crashed in a downhill event and suffered a concussion. The super-giant slalom was not even her best race. Yet Street donned downhill skis for extra speed and surprised even herself with her victory. Meanwhile, Austria's Hermann Maier, the odds-on favorite in the downhill, flew horribly out of control on the fast course. By the time he stopped tumbling, Maier, who is known for his go-for-broke style, had somersaulted three times and slammed through two retaining fences. He walked away miraculously with only a badly bruised shoulder and knee.

DAY 8

In a sign of trouble to come, the U.S. falls 4-2 to Sweden in hockey. The U.S. establishes an unfortunate pattern of reasonably good defense and little offensive punch. Controversy erupts, not surprisingly, at the figure skating arena, where judging is often a problem. The favored Russian pair, who will eventually win the gold medal, place first after the first day despite an obvious blunder. A Canadian pair was left fourth, although they skated well enough to be higher.

DAY 9

Russia's Ilia Kulik wins two awards: the gold medal in men's figure skating and ugliest costume. Skating in a shirt that scribes dub the giraffe slicker, Kulik lands an incredible seven triple jumps and one quadruple. Canada's Elvis Stojko finishes second despite a badly pulled groin muscle. The United States' Todd Eldredge tightens up to fall from third to fourth.

DAY 10

Skiing as if he'd never fallen, Hermann Maier captures his first gold medal in the men's super-giant slalom. Picabo Street finishes a tentative sixth in the downhill. The U.S. hockey team is crunched 4-1 by arch-rival Canada.

DAY 11

The United States' Christine Witty takes a bronze medal in her least favorite race, the 1,500 meters. The hometown fans have something to cheer about, as well. Their ski jumping team makes up for a disappointing second place in Lillehammer by winning its first gold medal in the history of the event.

DAY 12

The U.S. defeats its bitter rival Canada for the second time in a week to capture the first women's Olympic ice hockey competition. With its emphasis on skating and checking, both teams show that women's hockey can be every bit as entertaining as the men's game. The United States' Eric Bergoust and Nikki Stone each win gold in men's and women's aerials.

DAY 13

Good-bye U.S. hockey. The Americans learn first-hand what three other teams already know: the Czech Republic's Dominik Hasek, the world's best goaltender, is on his game. They lose 4-1 and are eliminated from the competition. Meanwhile, Michelle Kwan takes the lead in the Games' final glamour event, women's figure skating.

DAY 14

WOW!!! After Michelle Kwan seemingly wraps up the gold medal with a fine long program, Tara Lipinski trumps her with a dynamic performance that she punctuates with a long scream. Dominik Hasek handcuffs gold medal favorite Canada. Italy's charismatic Alberto Tomba, the former gold medalist, ends his Olympic career ignominiously, pulling out of the men's slalom.

DAY 16

Hasek completes his magnificent work in goal, shutting out Russia 1-0 to lead his lightly regarded team to the ice hockey gold medal.

DAY 17

Japan says *arrigato* (good-bye) with a tastefully reserved ceremony. Fireworks in all the

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primary colors burst high above the stadium. Colorfully dressed flower girls, lion dancers and drummers precede a stagecoach and cowboys, representatives of Salt Lake City, the next Olympic site, into the stadium. Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch says Nagano has staged "the best Games ever."

WORLD CUP

VIVE LA FRANCE!

Who could stop Brazil?

The defending World Cup champions seemed miles ahead of the 32-team field. Indeed, some experts boldly estimated that Brazil could field a second or third-string team and win soccer's most coveted prize. Brazil could boast of the world's best striker, Ronaldo, its best left midfielder, Roberto Carlos, and a supporting cast of players who would star for most countries.

But the tournament never evolved into the Sambafest that everyone was predicting.

Brazil quickly showed that all the talent in the world doesn't matter if team chemistry isn't right. France exposed the Brazilians failings, pasting the champs 3-0 before 80,000 fans in Paris and a delirious country beyond. It was France's first World Cup triumph and it made up for years of frustrating failures by a team that was often picked to go far in the tournament. The win had larger repercussions, as well. France has struggled with race relations in recent years.

Yet the winning team was made up of players of African, Arab and European descent. Pundits and politicians said the team's ability to harmonize despite the difference in player backgrounds should serve as a model for French society.

Indeed, few French people cared who came from where. The team was feted by more than 600,000 people, who clung to the Champs d'Elysees like ants on a vine. It was the largest celebration in the country since the end of World War II.

Brazil, though, could only lick its wounds and try to explain the mysterious ailment that made Ronaldo's participation in the final an uncertainty until less than an hour before the game. Doctors said the two-time Player of the Year's problem was stress related. Poor guy. He could buy an island and stage his own World Cup with the money he gets paid by his Italian team and sponsors.

GROUP PLAY

For the first time in history, the World Cup began with a field of 32 teams, eight more than in 1994. The increase came because FIFA, the governing body of international soccer, wanted to ensure the participation of developing soccer nations—read the U.S. The teams were split evenly into eight groups with two teams advancing from each group into single elimination rounds. Goal difference would settle tie records.

Brazil got things going—sort of—in a 2-1 win over feisty Scotland. The Brazilians controlled the flow of play for much of the game and scored the tournament's first game. But they showed alarming lapses in defense, one of which Scotland capitalized on for a tying goal, and needed a closing burst to win.

Yet the contest was promising for the tournament itself. Opening games are typically dull, low-scoring affairs. This one had scoring chances and goals, suggesting that rules changes penalizing foul play more severely than before would create a more offensive-minded World Cup and lead to more goals, which were too few at the last World Cup.

The competition's second day presented its first brouhaha. Italy, which had lost in the 1994 final, seemed headed for a first-game loss to Chile when it was awarded a questionable penalty shot. A Chilean defender had inadvertently touched the ball with his upper arm. Roberto Baggio converted the chance, which kept Italy out of a nerve-wracking must-win situation in its next two games.

Spain was not so lucky. A dark horse to meet Brazil in the final, it played nervously against Nigeria and lost 3-2. Otherwise, the results went according to form.

Host France clocked overmatched South Africa. Mexico overwhelmed South Korea and England beat Tunesia.

The U.S., which figured it had improved enough to play the best teams on even terms, could not have started more poorly. It froze on the first corner kick it faced from Germany and allowed the reigning European champions an early goal. The 2-0 final tally did not appear too bad. But the score did not reflect the Germans' dominance. For large chunks of the game, they appeared to be toying with the U.S., playing keep-away in the manner that grown-ups do with small children.

In the aftermath, coach Steve Sampson was roundly criticized. Sampson had kept several popular veterans out of his lineup and installed a strange 1-6-3 alignment that was supposed to take advantage of the team's plethora of good midfielders. Yet he seemed to forget that with just one striker, scoring was difficult.

The next two games would confirm as much. The U.S. managed only one late goal against Iran in a backbreaking loss that ended its chances for advancing.

That game ranked among the tournament's most intriguing as writers around the world played up the enmity between the two countries. To their credit, the teams did not let the hype cloud their judgment. Iranian players presented their U.S. counterparts with flowers and the teams posed for pictures. This was sports, not a fight to prove one country's superiority.

Nevertheless, Iranians back home took to the streets when the final whistle sounded in a rare display of public emotion that was not related to religion. Even Iran's government, which had said little about the meeting, could not resist zinging the U.S.—something about great arrogant enemies and the bitter taste of defeat.

A devastated U.S. team slumped home with a 1-0 loss to Yugoslavia. Over the next few days, frustrated players began taking shots at Sampson. They said that he'd mismanaged the team, failed to send out the best possible lineup.

Within a week he had resigned.

"I really came to terms with (resigning) in my own mind," Sampson told one newspaper. "Three losses is not an acceptable result."

SECOND ROUND

World Cups don't typically offer many surprises in the early going and this one was no different. Although Brazil lost and England struggled, those teams, Germany, Italy, England, Argentina and France all advanced.

Brazil looked Brazil-like in crushing Chile. France, which was forced to play without the red-carded Zinedine Zidane, sneaked by Paraguay in overtime. Germany and Italy won. The round's best game was between England and Argentina. Bad blood had flowed between the countries since the war over the Falkland Islands, and that made their meetings on the soccer field especially charged.

In 1986 Argentina had won a quarterfinal showdown on a goal that should not have counted. Another Argentina win came in a shoot-out. The latest matchup had a little of everything: fantastic goals, hard fouls, heroic defense, a colossally dumb red card and a shoot-out dominated by a goaltender who wasn't expected to be on the team. Argentina advanced.

QUARTERFINAL

A spectacular game; a defensive struggle; a cool finish; a huge upset. In order, Brazil defeated Denmark in perhaps the tournament's most entertaining game. It surrendered a soft first goal, took the lead with some beautiful attacking soccer, was tied when the defense made another error and then won with some more great playmaking. The game marked the end of the brilliant 16-year career of Denmark's Michael Laudrup, who had led the small country to its greatest heights, including a European championship.

France thankfully edged Italy in a shootout. As has been their traditional bent, the Italians made little attempt to attack, preferring to lay back and let the French do all the work. Italy's performance was the sort to turn people off the sport.

Holland kept another defensive-minded team, Argentina, from an undeserved semifinal appearance when Dennis Bergkamp, Europe's best player scored a magnificent, last-minute goal. Bergkamp took a 40-yard pass as if he had hands for feet, embarrassed a defender and zipped the ball into the upper-left corner of the goal.

The tournament's biggest upset occurred when Croatia stunned Germany 3-0. Croatia was playing in its first World Cup. It had until the start of this decade been part of the old Yugoslavia. When that country broke up and Croatia achieved nationhood, it could field a national team.

Croatia capitalized on a questionable red card that left Germany a man short for more than half the game. It scored just eight minutes after the infraction and added two goals in the second half. "Last but not least, you have to remember that it's not always the big guys who win," said Croatia's coach Miroslav Blazevic.

FOUR FOR THE PRIZE

The only surprise in the Brazil-Holland matchup was that more goals weren't scored. The teams attacked each other with gusto, creating a bushel of scoring opportunities. It was attractive soccer that kept viewers on their feet and wondering who would win. Holland owned a slight edge in the run of play, but it needed a late goal to tie the game. Yet its luck ran out in the shootout when only two of its first four players could convert their shots. Brazil was through.

A day later, France also advanced.

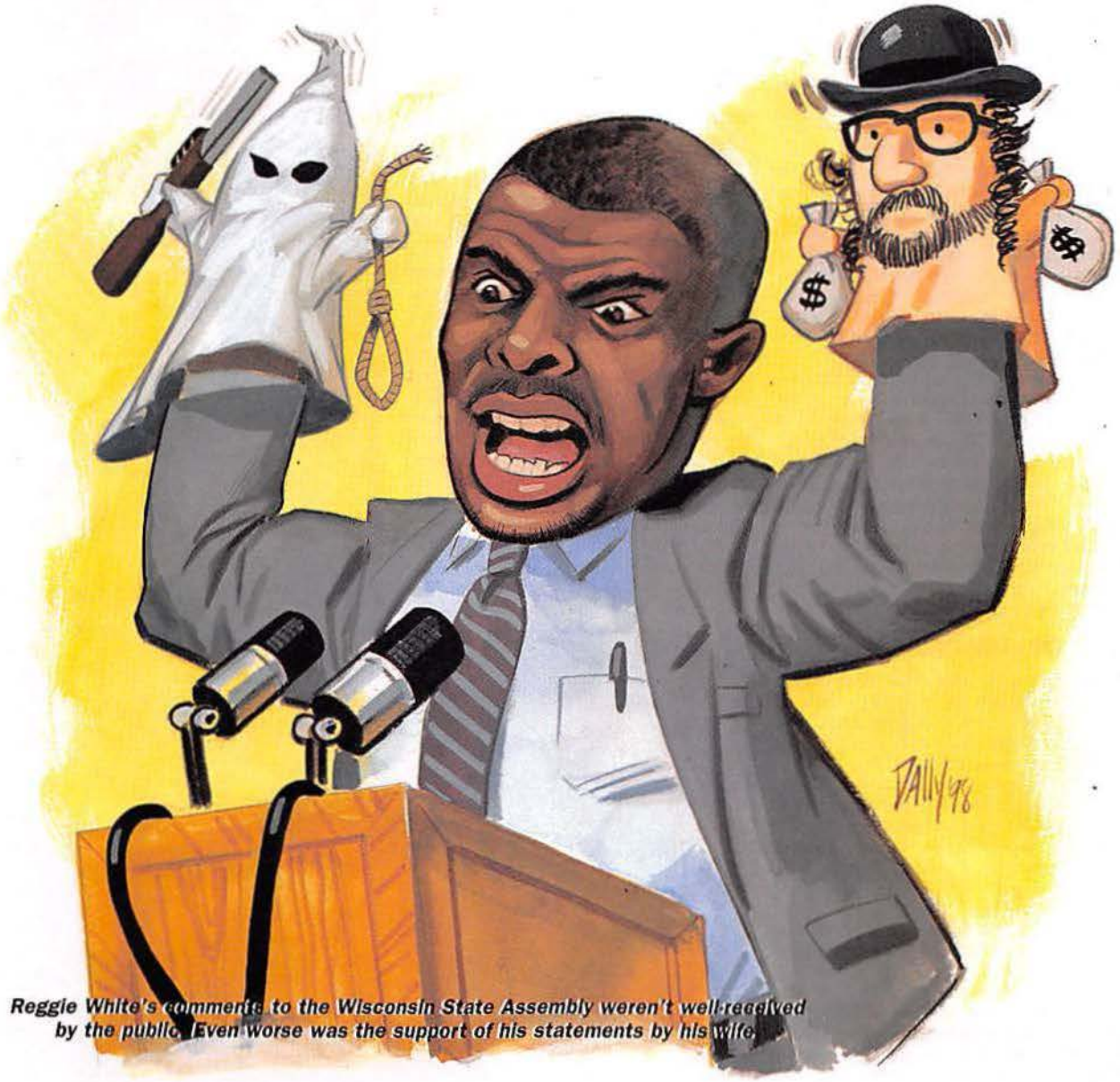
The final seemed like a mismatch. Brazil had conquered the far more difficult opposition and owned a huge edge in talent in the midfield and forward line.

France would be playing without Laurent Blanc, its stellar central defender who had received a bogus red card in the win over Croatia.

But France's exceptional defense, which had allowed just two goals all tournament, seemed to barely miss Blanc. Lifted by the stirring pre-game rendition of the Marsellaise and the roar of its 80,000 fans, the team played its best game of the tournament. It stymied Brazil's flowing offense and set up a slew of scoring chances. Its superb playmaker, Zinedine Zidane, who normally set up goals, turned scorer. Zidane headed in two exquisite goals on set plays. Emmanuel Petit scored France's third goal on a counterattack. By that time late in the second half, however, the victor was clear and the country was already celebrating.

THE NATIONAL SPORTS REVIEW

Jeers



Reggie White's comments to the Wisconsin State Assembly weren't well-received by the public. Even worse was the support of his statements by his wife.

RODMAN AWARD OF BIZARRE THINKING

All you need to know about the tobacco industry's quest for loot and disregard for our well-being is evident in the following comment by one of its hired apologists. Asked by *The New York Times* about the harmful effects of smokeless tobacco, Alan Hilburg, a flack for the Smokeless Tobacco Council lobby in Washington said, "It has not been scientifically established that smokeless tobacco causes adverse medical effects. Clearly, there's a controversy over tobacco. Clearly, it's not as conclusive as some people think."

You wonder how Hilburg and his ilk swallow this nonsense for even if, as he claimed, data was lacking, the anecdotal evidence is overwhelming. Hilburg was responding to *Times*' sports writer Jack Curry in a story on **Curt Schilling**. The Philadelphia Phillies' ace was the only baseball player who publicized his biopsy results from a screening that strongly connected smokeless tobacco use and pre-cancerous conditions.

Dr. John C. Greene, an oral cancer specialist for the Health America's National Spit Tobacco Education Program, found that of the 141 baseball players who volunteered to participate, 83 had at least one tobacco-related oral lesion, a frequent pre-cancerous condition. Greene recommended biopsies for 15 of them. Schilling was the only player willing to openly discuss his condition. Although an addicted chewer for 16 years, Schilling was scared enough by his results to quit. With the Phillies' trainer Jeff Cooper monitoring him, Schilling needed three weeks to wean himself off the nicotine patches he used to break his habit.

You wonder only why he didn't quit sooner. Schilling discovered that in his new tobaccoless life he could taste and smell better, that his breath didn't stink, and that his gums no longer bled frequently. His pitching remained as good as ever. Now if only the tobacco industry would admit that its products are harmful and stop targeting youngsters for it. Then again, in its quest for dollars, Big Tobacco has repeatedly proven that it doesn't have much credibility.

O.J. DELUSIONAL AWARD

His apologists may claim that Reggie White was merely inarticulate, unable to express some noble thoughts about the beauty of ethnic individuality. But they did themselves no justice in his defense. White's remarks to the Wisconsin State Assembly played on the grossest stereotypes and anti-gay prejudice.

White should have known better. Little more than a year earlier, he had seen his largely black Memphis church devastated by one of the racially-based fires that have swept the South in recent years. White spoke out against the attacks with memorable dignity. Yet before the Wisconsin Assembly, he spoke with all the callousness of a 1960 segregationist. White talked about Orientals who were adept with electronics and Hispanics with large families. He called homosexuality "one of the biggest sins"—as if he had divined this directly from God.

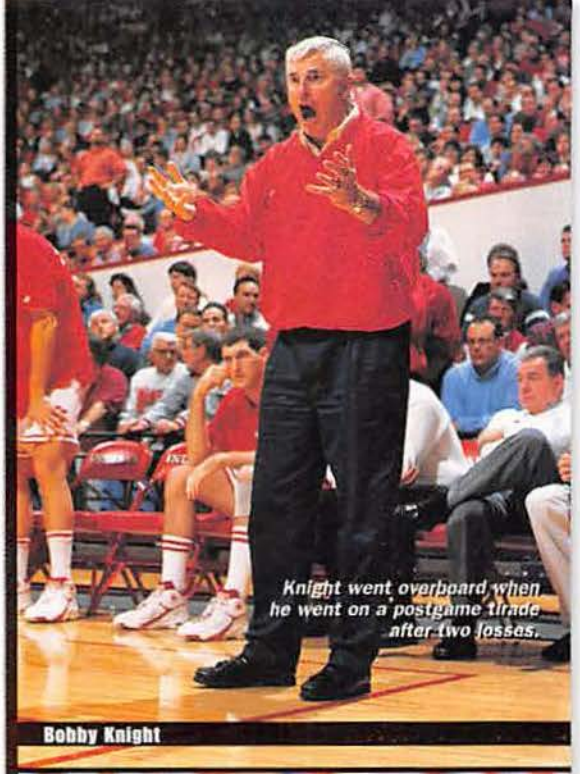
The furor over his speech hit immediately. He was roundly criticized. CBS appropriately lost interest in hiring him as an announcer. White, who then decided to resume his playing career, apologized, but later appeared—in uniform—in an ad for a conservative attack group that spent thousands of dollars trying to convince homosexuals that they could change. (An absurd position considering the wealth of scientific evidence that sexual orientation is often genetic.)

The Packers apologized for the use of the uniform to advance a position the team did not endorse. Yet White's wife was equally, shamelessly intolerant. She told ABC's news magazine *20/20* that "they (CBS) was too scared of the sodomite community" to hire her husband. "Well, you know what? Shame on them! I feel sorry for them because they can't stand the truth." No, shame on the Whites.

GENERAL FOUL BALLS

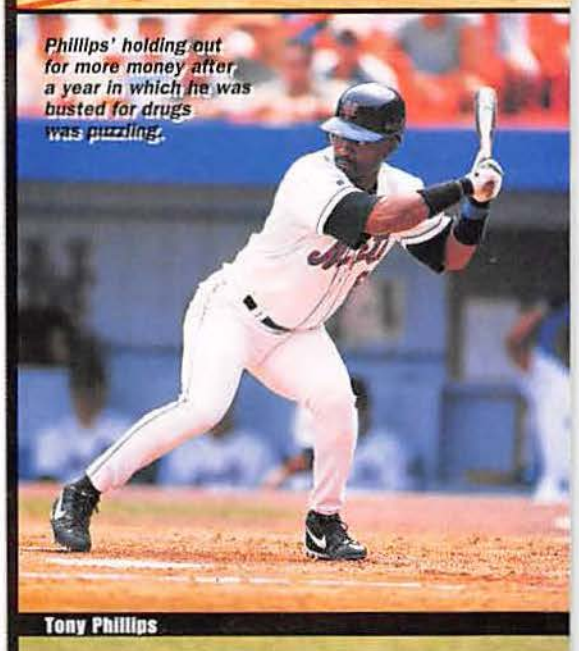
Although it is unlikely that **omm'A Givens** will ever play in the NBA, he seems well-suited for another role: **Latrell Sprewell**'s sparring partner. During a heated practice, the Pepperdine center slugged teammate **Aaron Butler** and broke his jaw. Coach **Lorenzo Romar** suspended Givens for three games while investigators contemplated filing charges. They eventually claimed there was insufficient evidence to prosecute. Still, the incident marred Pepperdine's season.

They'd caroused into the wee hours at the most important hockey tournament of their lives and won just one of four games. The least that U.S. national hockey team players could have done was to slink away quietly following their Olympic disaster. Instead, they reminded the world that Americans can indeed be ugly. After falling to the Czech Republic in an especially uninspired performance, members of the team that was supposed to vie with Canada for the gold medal trashed their Olympic Village rooms. They broke chairs and launched a fire extinguisher into a courtyard. The cost of the damage was esti-



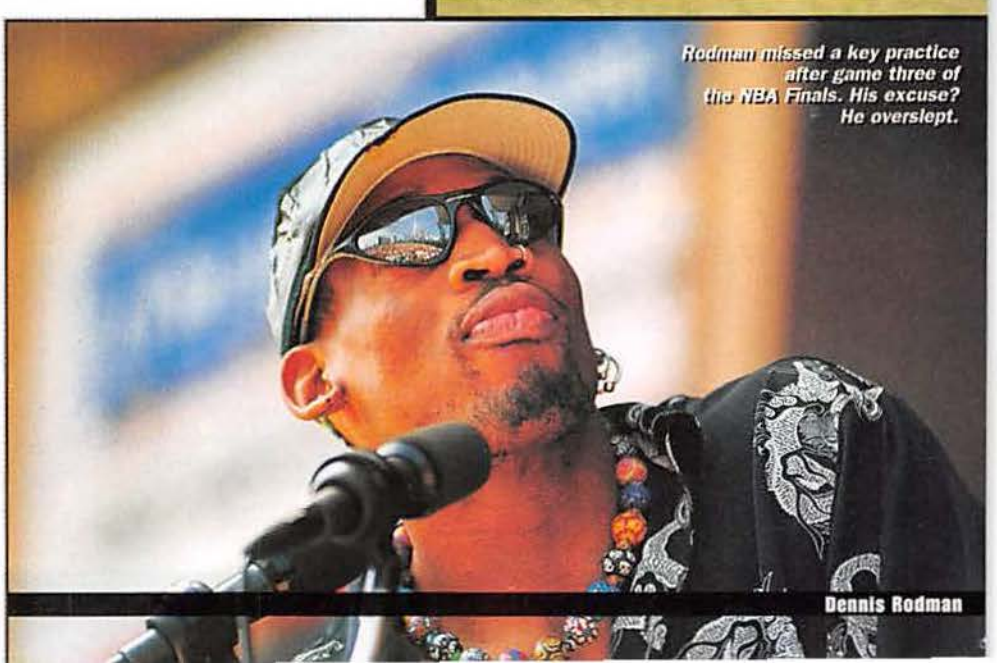
Knight went overboard when he went on a postgame tirade after two losses.

Bobby Knight



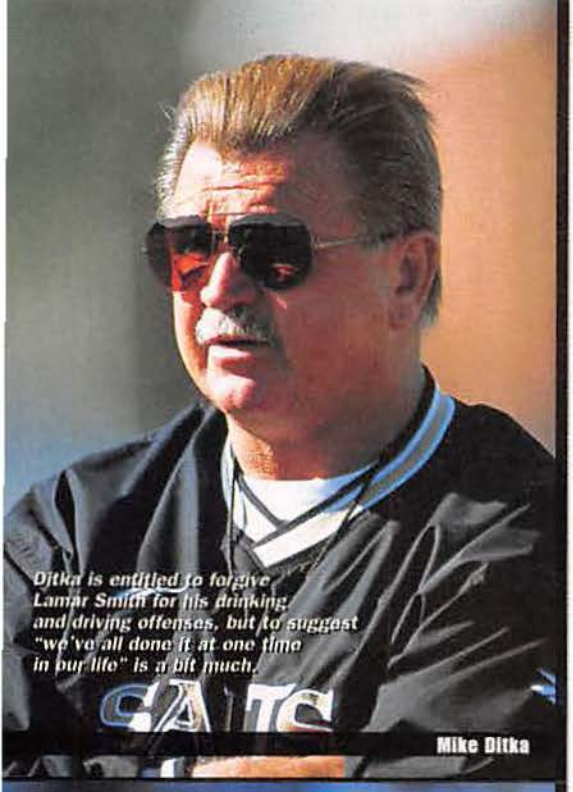
Phillips' holding out for more money after a year in which he was busted for drugs was puzzling.

Tony Phillips



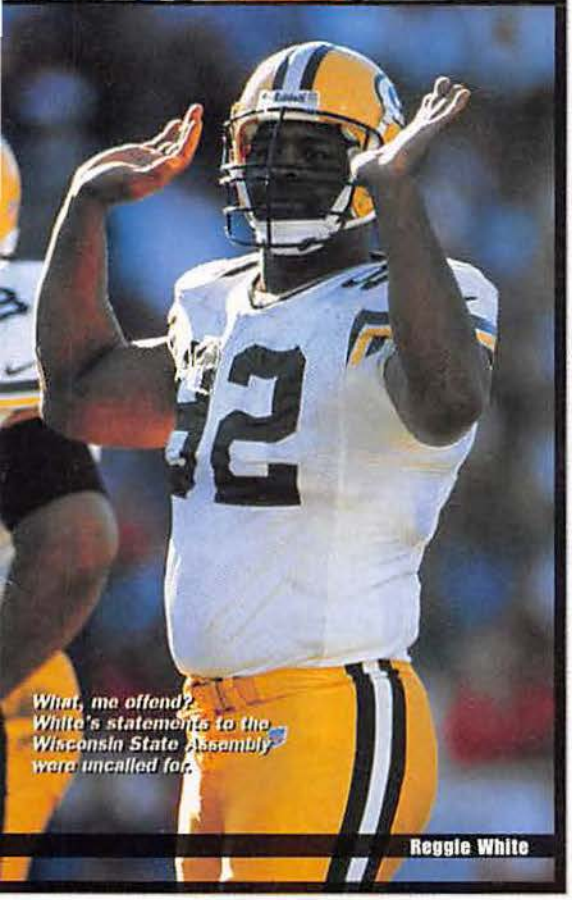
Rodman missed a key practice after game three of the NBA Finals. His excuse? He overslept.

Dennis Rodman



Ditka is entitled to forgive Lamar Smith for his drinking and driving offenses, but to suggest "we've all done it at one time in our life" is a bit much.

Mike Ditka



What, me offend? White's statements to the Wisconsin State Assembly were uncalled for.

Reggie White

mated as high as $3,000. The cost of the team's reputation was incalculable.

You'd think that Tony Phillips would be happy to sign for the Major League minimum—or even the minor league minimum. Considering his cocaine arrest in 1997 and history of disciplinary problems, you'd figure he'd jump at any situation enabling him to earn good money for playing a game. The Mets offered a base salary of $400,000 with incentives that could have added up to $1 million. Nothing wrong with those sums. Yet Phillips wanted $500,000, calling his judgment into question yet again. He eventually signed a minor league contract with the Toronto Blue Jays, but finished the season with the New York Mets, who were desperate for a lead-off hitter.

We empathized with Bob Knight's reaction when **Luke Recker** was knocked to the floor during Indiana's game against Iowa. But we don't accept his tirade following a tough loss to Iowa—a game in which Knight received three technical fouls and was ejected. Knight walked briskly onto the court to check on Recker, who had been knocked hard to the floor and remained their for a few minutes. The coach was rewarded with his second technical foul of the game and automatic ejection, which sent Knight into a rage. Before leaving the court, Knight received a third technical. But he saved his biggest fury for the postgame press conference. Knight called official **Ted Valentine** "the greatest travesty I've ever seen in basketball in 33 years as a college head coach." The remarks were uncalled for, but then again Knight has often spoken too quickly and harshly when he times are tough for him. Indiana lost to Iowa by 10 points less than a week after it had been drilled by Michigan by 48.

We at the NSR have a soft spot for coach-turned-announcer-turned-coach **Mike Ditka**. The emotional, outspoken and often funny Iron Mike has provided us with a steady supply of material. His take on running back **Lamar Smith** was anything but amusing, though. Smith served a four-month jail sentence after driving under the influence of alcohol and wrecking his car. The accident left former Seattle Seahawks' teammate **Mike Frier** paralyzed. Ditka signed Smith and his lifetime 4.6 yards per carry average to bolster New Orleans' meager running game. "We've all done it at one time in our life. We've used bad judgment with alcohol and a vehicle," said Ditka, justifying the acquisition. We don't take issue with Ditka's willingness to forgive or to sign Smith. But he treated a tragic, and far too frequent occurrence flippantly. Hopefully, most of us don't drink and drive anytime. To suggest otherwise is to make the act seem excusable.

How anyone can play for John Calipari is a mystery. Coaches are supposed to set a proper example for their players or at least earn their respect. Yet the loose cannon Nets coach is unable to control what he says. Last year Calipari called a reporter who was not covering his team the way he wanted "a Mexican idiot." The reporter had a Hispanic last name. Calipari was fined. This year, amidst a string of tough losses to division rivals Miami and New York, Calipari cursed a fan. The NBA fined him $1,000.

We respect Karl Malone's competitiveness; his fearlessness in the roughhouse world of NBA inside players; and hard off-season workouts that have enabled him to build toaster-sized muscles. We understand that heavy contact is part of the league. But we also believe that Malone crosses the line between fair and foul play. Against San Antonio in early April, he flicked up one of his giant elbows as he tried to gain position against **David Robinson**, and clipped the Spurs' center on the side of the head, although Malone is four inches shorter. Robinson fell to the floor unconscious and was later hospitalized. Malone continued playing and led his team to a tainted 98-88 victory.

Dennis Rodman's act is tired. He reminds you of a has-been vaudeville performer who once enjoyed some success but never got beyond the routine that made him famous. He continued to paint his hair, sport enough tattoos and jewelry for a rock musician and flout the commonly accepted rules for team membership. Strapped for rebounding, the Chicago Bulls were willing to accommodate Rodman's loony behavior. But even they could not fathom his absence from a key practice after the third game of the NBA championship series. Rodman said simply that he had overslept. "With Dennis comes a lot of baggage," said **Michael Jordan**.

The crazies that often pass for sports fans in this country don't have anything over those in Europe. When Panathinaikos won its first European club championship (the continental equivalent of the NBA title), Greek fans set fire to a subway station and clashed with police, who needed tear gas to disperse the unruly crowd.

NBA stars figured their stand against the league that enables them to earn so much money was more important than representing their country.

STATISTICS FROM HELL

Jan. 6—**Jim Courier**'s slump continues in 1998 as he loses 7-5, 6-2 to **Mark Woodforde** in the first round of the Australian Men's Hardcourt Championships... **Jan. 7**—Ouch! Colorado is routed by Kansas 111-62... **Jan. 9**—Pathetic Golden State converts just 29 field goals and 11-21 free throws in a 101-72 loss to Detroit... **Jan. 15**—Arizona State sets a record for defensive ineptitude, losing 127-99 to Arizona... **Jan. 13**—The Portland Trail Blazers set a franchise low for points in a 75-68 loss to the Miami Heat... **Jan. 15**—The New Jersey Nets are too cocky for their own good and lose to the hopeless Los Angeles Clippers 119-116... **Jan. 16**—The Vancouver Grizzlies set team records, scoring 40 points in the first quarter and 72 points in the half but still fall 112-110 to the Washington Wizards... **Jan. 17**—The University of Mississippi forgets its No. 11 national ranking, shoots a season-low 33 percent and falls to Tennessee 77-67... **Jan. 18**—The Denver Nuggets lose 94-82 to Portland, their 20th straight loss, which ties the 1973 Philadelphia 76ers and 1993 Dallas Mavericks for the second

PHOTO CREDITS: BRIAN SPURLOCK (KNIGHT); MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT (DITKA); AL BELLO/ALLSPORT (PHILLIPS); SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT (WHITE); MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT (RODMAN)

They boycotted the World Championships instead of playing in the event, which was supposed to pay the league a healthy sum for the participation of some of its best players. With the decline of pro basketball's image in this country in recent years, the players would have done themselves more good by journeying to Greece for the tournament.

ISSUES AND STRANGE JUDGMENT

New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani did not come out of the Yankee Stadium mess looking much better than Steinbrenner. The brash mayor is convinced that he is always right and has little tolerance for critics. But his judgment is frequently not as sound as he would like to imagine. Giuliani said he wanted to build Steinbrenner his stadium and do the same for the New York Mets. According to early estimates, the projects would cost $2 billion. Most of that total would fall on taxpayers. These are the same New York taxpayers who watched the mayor propose budget cuts for libraries and parks; and who saw the underfunded public school system continue to flounder while Giuliani reported a $2 billion city surplus. Ballparks or education? Rich owners seeking governmental charity or kids looking for books? Giuliani was also willing to build the new home of the Yankees in Manhattan, closer to the rich elite who might one day finance his run for an even higher office. He was willing to—as so many power-hungry politicians before him were—forsake the poverty-stricken Bronx where Yankee Stadium was built 75 years ago.

When Laurent Blanc received a red card in France's World Cup semifinal win over Croatia, it underlined a serious problem with international soccer. Referees simply are not able to determine if a foul is serious. By handing out a red card, which means automatic ejection and suspension from at least the next game, they may change the course of play and even an entire tournament. Blanc, the linchpin of France's defense, did not deserve his ejection. His foul was relatively minor, but a Tony Award acting job by Croatia's **Slaven Bilic**, a notorious drama king, fooled referee **Jose Maria Garcia Aranda** into believing that he had suffered a career-threatening injury. With instant replay or an extra referee, the incident would have been seen in its proper light. A number of other dubious ejections might also have been reversed.

Don't colleges get it? They are supposed to be enlightened when it comes to such things as gender and racial relations. Yet in the hiring of women and minority coaches, schools are anything but trend setters. According to "The Racial Report Card," a study released by Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, universities lagged even behind pro teams' woeful employment records. Roughly one out of every 10 NFL coaches and Major League baseball managers and almost one quarter of NBA coaches are minorities. But in the 1995-96 academic year, only 18 percent of Division-I college basketball coaches; 7 percent of Division I-A football coaches and a shocking 2 percent of baseball coaches were minorities. Those numbers show no sign of improving.

There's something unsavory about the way that young players continue turning pro at remarkably young ages. In one day, Oregon State sophomore **Corey Benjamin** and high school senior **Korleone Young** announced that they were turning pro. And word leaked that St. Louis freshman **Larry Hughes** would also declare himself eligible for the draft. All three could easily have profited from another year or two of seasoning.

We're tired of watching college and pro athletes reach for their throats after completing an important play. The gesture, a choke or slash to indicate that an opponent is finished, is not amusing. Never was. Indeed, it usually makes the individual look bad. Stanford point guard **Trevor Lee** spent the week leading up to the Final Four apologizing for his choking sign against Rhode Island. Even his father promised the media that his normally well-behaved son would never repeat his action. **Chris Childs** probably wishes that he'd been a little more reserved in his end-of-game celebration against the Miami Heat in the first round of the playoffs. After hitting a 3-point shot to help secure a surprising win in game two, Childs tastelessly slashed at his throat with his index finger. Two days later though, Childs was being mocked by the Heat's **Eric Murdock**, who did the same after his own key 3-point shot in game three. Neither player did much for the image of the NBA, which despite concerns over its declining image said little about the players' behavior.

Here's an entry for Shawn Kemp and a slew of other professional and former professional athletes who may make huge bucks but have obviously not invested any of them

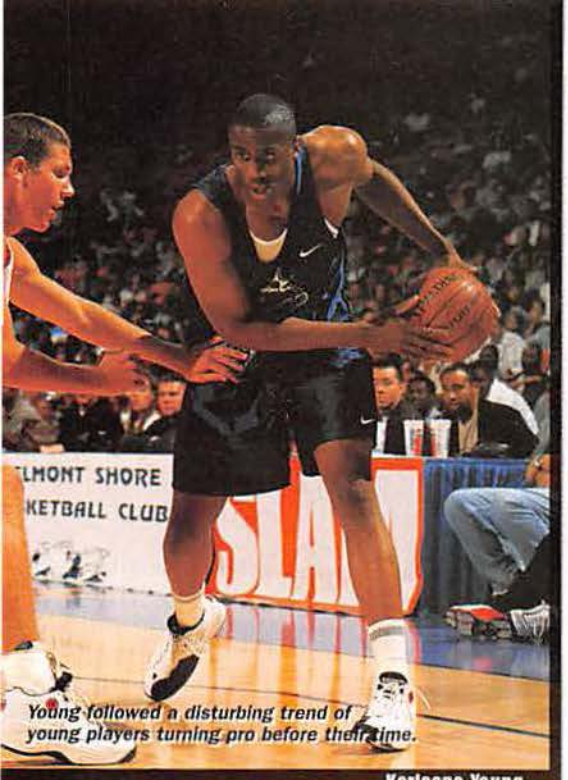
Blanc's ejection from France's semifinal World Cup game was undeserved; referees need to be more certain about the severity of fouls during these crucial games.

Laurent Blanc

Hingis and others have brought excitement to tennis, but officials need to curb their tendencies to delay games.

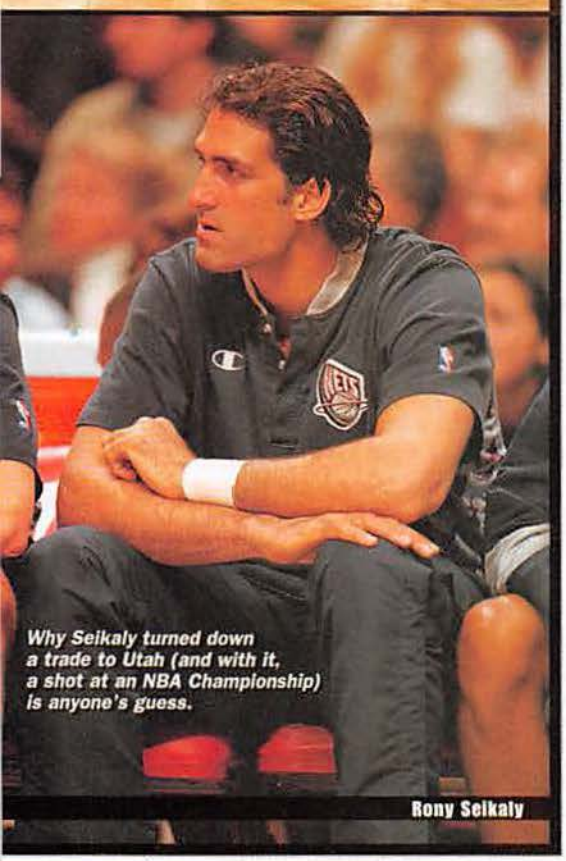
Martina Hingis

longest losing streak in NBA history... **Jan. 20**—The Denver Nuggets continue their losing ways, falling 88-77 to hapless Vancouver for their 21st consecutive defeat... **Jan. 26**—Returning from a two-week layoff for finals, Princeton defeats College of New Jersey, a Division III team, by only 59-50... **Jan. 29**—Maryland receives four technical fouls in an 86-59 loss to Duke... **Feb. 1**—The Chicago Bulls suffer their second embarrassing loss on national television in a week: after falling at home to the Utah Jazz, they lose 112-87 to the Los Angeles Lakers... **Feb. 2**—The Tampa Bay Lightning lose 7-3 to the Buffalo Sabres and extend their franchise-record losing streak to 13 games... **Feb. 6**—On and on the Florida Marlins' firesale goes as they trade **Al Leiter** and his 11-9 record to the New York Mets... **Feb. 9**—At the Winter Olympics three of four members of the normally strong women's snowboarding team don't finish the first run of the slalom... **Feb. 14**—Could the Washington Wizards really lose to the Vancouver Grizzlies? Yes they can, 110-108, enabling Vancouver to snap a seven-game losing streak... **Feb. 15**—The Toronto Raptors dress just eight players and lose 116-95 to the Miami Heat... **Feb. 16**—After 10 days of fragmented, commercial-saturated coverage, CBS sees its



Young followed a disturbing trend of young players turning pro before their time.

Korleone Young



Why Seikaly turned down a trade to Utah (and with it, a shot at an NBA Championship) is anyone's guess.

Rony Seikaly

in birth control. Kemp is a walking baby machine. Although just 29, he has fathered a small team of children out of wedlock, according to a lawyer interviewed by *Sports Illustrated*. With so many kids to keep track of, it is no wonder that Kemp had trouble making practice while with Seattle in 1996-97. But Kemp was not alone. The Knicks' **Larry Johnson**, among others, also did nothing for the world's overpopulation problems.

The teenage stars who have pumped life into women's pro tennis have honed a disturbing strategy. When they fear that they will lose, they take a permitted bathroom or injury break or spend eons dusting themselves off or mopping the sweat from their arms and face. Their purpose is nothing short of breaking their opponents' concentration. **Martina Hingis** and **Venus Williams**, among others, have made these stalls a regular part of their repertoire. The WTA, the governing body of women's tennis, should head things off before they detract from the excitement that these players have generated.

LET'S TRY TO HIGHLIGHT THIS ONE

The timekeeper cheated, the referees couldn't do their job, and NCAA officials were too spineless to overturn Alabama's 75-74 victory over UCLA in the second round of the women's NCAA basketball tournament. UCLA led 74-73 with .8 seconds remaining when Alabama called timeout. Inbounding the ball from under the UCLA basket, Crimson Tide guard **Brittney Ezell** ran along the baseline, a traveling violation that went uncalled. Ezell threw a desperate, nearly court-length pass. Still, UCLA's **Erica Gomez** tipped the ball. The clock should have started. Game over, right? Wrong. NCAA games are played on site, not at neutral locations. The Alabama timekeeper, **Doc Blanchard**, who'd been at his job for 50 years, didn't move. Alabama's **Dominique Canty** grabbed the ball at the free throw line, wheeled and banked in a shot; although there was no humanly way possible she could complete such a play in less than a second. The buzzer sounded and the trio of referees made a cowardly and quick escape as UCLA coaches and players raced to center court in protest. They stayed there for over an hour while NCAA officials pondered the matter, eventually deciding that a win was a win no matter how tainted. "The good Lord has blessed us," said Alabama coach **Rick Moody**. It was a comment of such remarkable lack of taste that it somehow seemed appropriate for such an unsavory situation.

It was perhaps the most bizarre disqualification in any sport in recent memory. **Lee Janzen** waited 17 seconds too long to see if his birdie putt would drop on the 17th hole during the second round of the U.S. Open. The ball was overhanging the lip. But PGA rules allow players only 10 seconds to determine if a ball that overhangs the lip is still in motion. Janzen's shot finally dropped but only after he'd studied the situation for 27 seconds. By exceeding the time limit, he should have taken a one-stroke penalty. He didn't and thus signed his scorecard incorrectly, which meant disqualification.

Reggie Miller's last-second, 3-point shot to beat the Chicago Bulls and even the Eastern Conference Final at two games apiece was as fine a clutch shot as he has ever hit in his great career. It also shouldn't have counted. Referees **Hugh Evans**, **Bill Oakes** and **Ronnie Nunn** swallowed their whistles when Miller threw **Michael Jordan** out of the way to free himself for his final attempt. It is an unwritten rule that referees usually don't want to play a decisive role in the outcome of a playoff game. Yet this philosophy can be carried to ridiculous extremes, as it was to the Pacers' benefit.

Rony Seikaly must have been kidding. A veteran on the downside of his career, he had the chance to play for a championship contender when he was traded at mid-season from the Magic to the Jazz. But Seikaly decided that he didn't want to play for Utah. So the deal was canceled—much to the surprise and consternation of the Jazz. Seikaly wound up going to New Jersey.

The NHL needed some Viagra. Instead it took an aspirin and hoped for the best. In lieu of figuring out a way to spur teams out of their defensive shells and get them to forsake the clutching and grabbing that have substituted for sound defensive play, the league restricted the size of goaltenders' pads. This was a good move, as netminders have turned to equipment that made them look as if they were in traction. Yet that did not seem like the sort of medicine to treat a league that sorely needed scoring and improved television ratings.

CRIMES, MISDEMEANORS AND INFRACTIONS

When Gene McDowell took over as Central Florida's football program three years ago, he set his sights understandably high. Central Florida had leaped from division I-AA to I-A. McDowell had the support of the university to build a team that could com-

ratings drop 35 percent from those of the Lillehammer Olympics... **Feb. 17**—Italy's big-talking three-time gold medalist Alberto Tomba falls on his first run of the giant slalom... **Feb. 19**—The Philadelphia Disaster Story, otherwise known as the 76ers, acquire **Joe Smith** from Golden State but lose 82-77 to Indiana... **Feb. 20**—The New Jersey Nets score only 11 field goals in the second half of a 109-95 home loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers... **Feb. 22**—A bad day for old powers: UCLA surrenders a school record for points in losing 120-84 to No. 2-ranked Duke while Indiana absorbs a 48-point pounding from No. 22-ranked Michigan... **March 1**—Against the beat-up, overmatched Knicks, before a national television audience, the Lakers' **Shaquille O'Neal** shoots just 6-16 in a 101-89 loss... **March 5**—Somehow surging Arizona loses 91-90 to hapless USC to ruin its perfect record in the Pac-10... **March 7**—Arizona State is wiped out by USC 117-71... **March 8**—Duke is routed 83-68 by North Carolina 83-68 in the final of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament... **March 9**—The Vancouver Canucks manage just 19 shots in a 4-0 loss to the St. Louis Blues... **March 24**—With a chance to take over the No. 1 world ranking, **Petr Korda** loses 6-4, 6-4 to **Tim Henman** in the fourth

PHOTO CREDITS: PHIL COLE/ALLSPORT (BLANC); TODD WARSHAW/ALLSPORT (YOUNG); VINCENT LAFORET/ALLSPORT (HINGIS); JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT (SEIKALY)

pete with instate powers Miami, Florida and Florida State. And he had an ample recruiting budget to tap the state's seemingly endless pool of football talent. McDowell will never have the opportunity to complete his work. He resigned in mid-January after pleading guilty to lying to Federal agents and a grand jury. Responding to questions, McDowell said that he didn't know how his players learned they were being investigated for cellular phone fraud, although he had tipped them off just before an Oct. 28 raid of their locker room. McDowell had learned of the raid from **David Smith**, juvenile crime director for the Seminole County sheriff's office. Smith's son Maurice was a tailback on the team and his other son, Marquette, starred at fullback before moving on to the Carolina Panthers. Smith resigned his post and was charged with making a false statement. McDowell faced stiff penalties and the humiliation of having betrayed his position as a teacher and leader.

As if we needed it, here's another example of a star-struck jury allowing an athlete off easy. In January, Red Sox slugger **Mo Vaughn** was arrested for alleged drunken driving after he smacked into a disabled car on Interstate 95 near Dedham, Mass., and his sport utility van overturned. Vaughn had been partying at a strip club. He failed a sobriety test eight times, according to one of the arresting officers, and could not even correctly recite the alphabet on three occasions. His license was suspended for six months and he was also fined $100 for driving outside of marked lanes. Yet the jury spared him a jail sentence, acquitting him of the DUI charge. On his way out of the court room, two bailiffs congratulated him on the verdict.

Latrell Sprewell, the former Golden State Warrior, received a break when arbitrator **John Feerick** ruled that penalties imposed by his team and the NBA were excessive. Golden State had terminated his $32-million contract and the league suspended him for a year. A couple of days after the arbitrator's ruling however, Sprewell insisted that he had not choked coach **P.J. Carlesimo**. On the news program *60 Minutes* Sprewell said that he had lost control because Carlesimo did not "respect" his "manhood." As apology or rationale for his actions, both comments were inappropriate. Yet the articulate Sprewell, who has a habit of resorting to violence when he is angry, never fully realized that there was no justification for his actions.

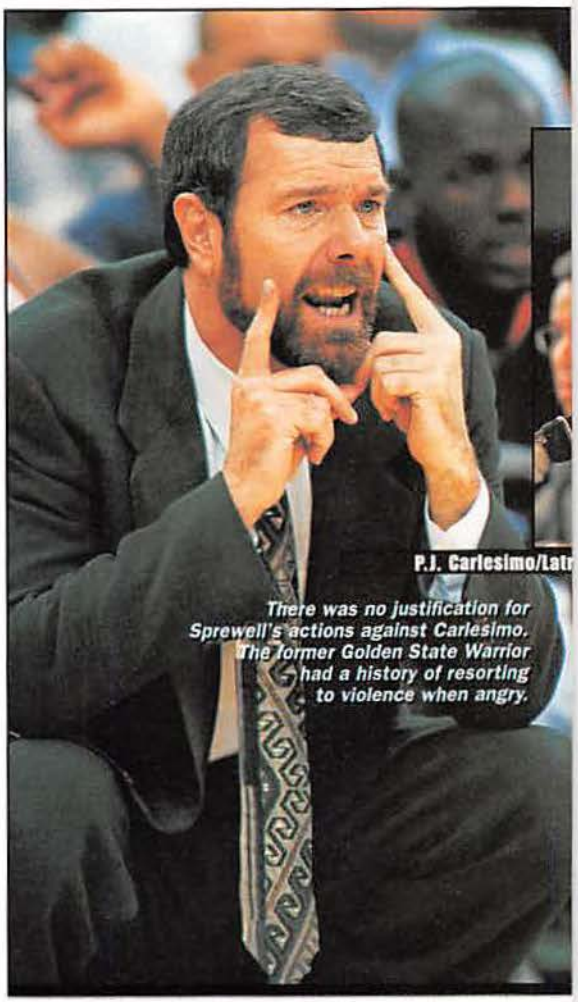
Smith, shown here with her controversial Olympic medals, has either a strong addiction to whiskey or a need to mask illegal substances.

Michelle Smith

It isn't as if Lawrence Taylor didn't make enough money to support his offspring. Yet the former All-Pro linebacker spent 10 hours in jail for failing to pay $4,500 in child support and $1,500 for an outstanding traffic violation. A business associate paid the total amount so that Taylor could be released.

A bad year for linebackers. In his career, **Cornelius Bennett** has played with a wild-eyed enthusiasm that led more often to big plays but occasionally left him badly out of position. He appeared to lack discipline in his outside life. The former Buffalo Bill and present Atlanta Falcon pleaded guilty to sexually abusing a former lover, a misdemeanor offense, and was sentenced to serve a 60-day sentence.

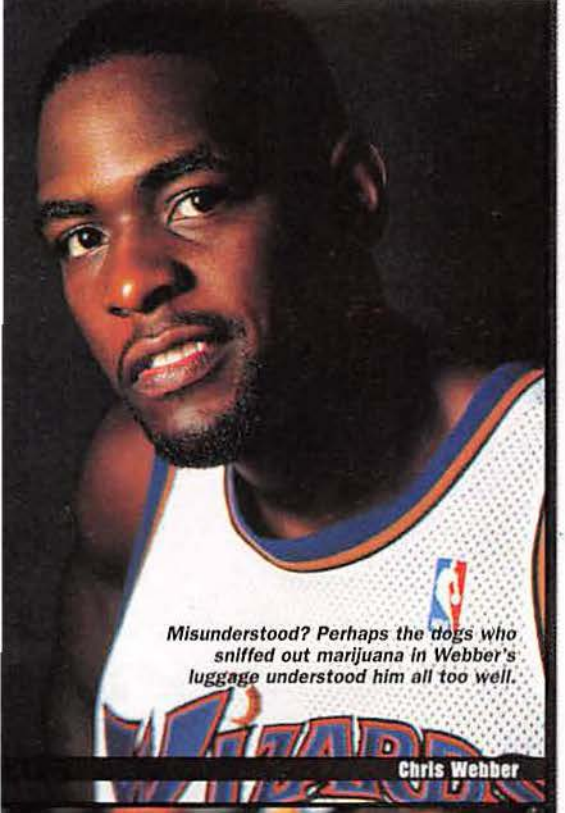
Soccer fans set the standards for bad behavior. At any international competition, English, Dutch, German and occasionally Italian and Spanish hooligans are typically carted off to prison and shipped back home for instigating some act of violence. This year the Germans were the worst of the lot as a group of rowdies, probably right wing extremists with more interest in fighting than sports, beat a French policeman into a coma. The mob used cell phones to coordinate their violence. English unrulies were not far behind the Germans in viciousness. They did not even wait for the first game to start before creating trouble. They taunted fans of Tunisia, their team's first-round opponent, and engaged in a frightening stone throwing incident in Marseille. French police broke up the battle in a scene that resembled something out of a civil war.



P.J. Carlesimo/Lat

There was no justification for Sprewell's actions against Carlesimo. The former Golden State Warrior had a history of resorting to violence when angry.

round of the Lipton Championships... **April 6**—In falling 8-5 to Milwaukee, World Series champion Florida extends its season-opening losing streak to six games... **April 8**—The league-leading New Jersey Devils somehow fall to the low-flying New York Islanders 3-2... **April 9**—Former champion **Ben Crenshaw** shoots an 83 in the first round of the Masters... **April 19**—The Denver Nuggets lose 96-82 to the San Antonio Spurs and finish with an 11-71 record, tying for the second worst mark since the NBA expanded its schedule to 82 games... **April 25**—The world returns to normal: the Chicago Cubs fall 3-2 to the Los Angeles Dodgers to extend their losing streak to 4... **April 26**—**Greg Maddux** surrenders 10 hits and 6 runs in just 5 innings of a 7-6 loss to the Colorado Rockies... **April 28**—The Charlotte Hornets match the lowest scoring total for a playoff game in a 96-64 loss to the Atlanta Hawks... **May 3**—The Pittsburgh Penguins, the second-seeded team in the Eastern Conference, lose 3-0 to the seventh-seeded Montreal Canadiens and are eliminated from the Stanley Cup playoffs... **May 8**—In a 4-1 loss to the Milwaukee Brewers, the Houston Astros set a National League record for strikeouts in consecutive games with 31... **May 22**—The Los Angeles Lakers fall behind 3-0



Misunderstood? Perhaps the dogs who sniffed out marijuana in Webber's luggage understood him all too well.

Chris Webber

Sprewell

How eager was Latrell Sprewell to rebuild his reputation? Not enough to stay out of trouble. In late July, Sprewell pleaded no contest to reckless driving after causing an accident three months earlier on a Northern California highway. He was sentenced to three months of home detention. He was also placed on two years probation, fined $1,000, and ordered not to have a gun in his possession. Sprewell had swerved out of an exit-only lane and struck another car, injuring a couple. He said he pleaded no contest to put the incident behind him. But he likely also wanted to avoid media coverage of a trial and a possible six-month jail term.

Since winning three gold medals at the Atlanta Olympics, Irish swimmer **Michelle Smith** had insisted that she was drug-free. Yet officials from the International Swimming Federation found high levels of whiskey apparently used to "manipulate" a random urine test and suspended her for four years, effectively ending Smith's career. Skeptics of Smith's Atlanta performance have always insisted that Smith used drugs to improve from a little-known also-ran to the world's best middle-distance swimmer. Smith vehemently denied the accusation and none other than President Clinton defended her. Until this year, Smith could justify her position by saying that she had passed every drug test given by various international sports organizations. But a test in January indicated a level of whiskey so high it would have killed her. The whiskey was apparently used to mask banned substances, or a variety of drugs.

Baltimore closer Armando Benitez justified his reputation as a loose cannon by hitting New York's Tino Martinez with a fastball one pitch after surrendering a back-breaking, three-run home run. The pitch injured Martinez and touched off a bench-clearing brawl. Benitez was suspended for eight games (the Yankees' **Darryl Strawberry** and **Graeme Lloyd** were suspended for three games apiece for fighting; Baltimore's **Alan Mills** and New York's **Jeff Nelson** each received two-game suspensions). Yet later, even his teammates could not support his poor judgment. Benitez had broken two unwritten baseball rules: that pitchers throw at batters only when one of their teammates has been thrown at, or when an opponent taunts you; and that the brushback pitch stay at chest level or below.

Charles Barkley can't help his boorish behavior. How else to explain the obscene gestures and profane language he directed at a Utah fan during his team's surprising opening-game win in the Rockets first-round playoff series with the Jazz? After finishing eighth in the Western Conference, Houston had played perhaps its best game of the season. Yet Barkley couldn't let the heckling fan's barbs go unanswered. For his efforts, the NBA fined him $10,000.

Chris Webber seems intent on sabotaging his image. Just a couple months after the Washington Wizards shipped the petulant forward to Sacramento, Webber was fined $500 after drug-sniffing dogs in Puerto Rico detected 11 grams of marijuana in his luggage. Webber was detained in San Juan before he was allowed to continue on a Caribbean trip that was sponsored by a sporting goods manufacturer. Washington was the second team that Webber, one of the NBA's most talented players, had irritated with his selfish, sometimes loutish behavior. Bright and articulate, Webber has always insisted that he is misunderstood. The San Juan episode did nothing to support his claim.

After their wrestlemania of 1997, the Knicks and Heat should have done everything possible to avoid a repeat. They didn't, and the image-scarred NBA found itself with another nasty incident on its hands. The league suspended Miami's **Alonzo Mourning** and New York's **Larry Johnson** for two games apiece and fined them respectively $20,000 and $10,000. The Knicks' **Chris Mills** was suspended for a game and fined $2,500 for leaving the bench. Mourning received the heftiest penalty because he started the altercation that flared up suddenly with 1.4 seconds left in a New York win at Madison Square Garden. The two former Charlotte Hornets, who had feuded as teammates, jawed and jostled all game. Mourning finally had enough of the roughhouse play and swung at Johnson, who swung back. Mills wandered a few steps away from the Knicks' sideline while his pint-sized coach **Jeff van Gundy** tried breaking up the fight, but got pushed to the floor and wound up riding Mourning's muscular leg like a little child playing with a grownup.

More parental problems: In January, former Heisman Trophy winner and Detroit Lions star **Billy Sims** was sentenced to a month in jail and required to pay $14,025.85 in restitution for failing to pay child support to a woman with whom he'd had a baby in 1978.

From the Latrell Sprewell school of upstanding behavior comes yet another incident. Upset that he had been given his second technical foul and ejected from a game, **Rosell Ellis** of the Des Moines Dragon of the International Basketball Association (the league that gave boxer **Roy Jones** a part-time gig last year), put a stranglehold on the referee. The league suspended Ellis, his team's leading scorer, for the remainder of the season.

Notre Dame suffered another hit to its once impeccable reputation when **Joe Moore**, a former assistant coach under **Lou Holtz**, won a judgment against the university for age discrimination. A jury awarded the 66-year-old Moore $86,000 in back pay and damages. Moore's suit stemmed from his unexpected firing by **Bob Davie**, who replaced Holtz. The trial included allegations that Davie had plotted against Holtz, saying that the

in games to the Utah Jazz after a hapless 109-98 home loss to Utah... **May 23**—The Washington Capitals manage just 19 shots against the Buffalo Sabres in losing 2-0 in the opening game of their Eastern Conference final series... **May 24**—Boston's staff ERA rises to 4.16 after it surrenders 26 runs in losing two games to the New York Yankees... **May 27**—**Pete Sampras'** problems continue: He loses to 97th-ranked **Ramon Delgado** of Paraguay 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the second round of the French Open... **June 10**—**Mark McGwire** blasts a massive home run but the St. Louis Cardinals blow a 7-0 lead to lose 10-8 to the Chicago White Sox... **June 14**—In his team's 69th game, a 4-3 loss to the Oakland A's, third baseman **Russ Davis** commits his 17th error... **June 24**—In the first round of Wimbledon, **Marcelo Rios** loses 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 to **Francisco Clavet** and then complained about the conditions... **July 4**—After three rounds of the U.S. Women's Open, not one player shoots even par... **July 5**—The Baltimore Orioles lose 1-0 to the New York Yankees and fall 26½ games behind their nemesis in the American League East... **July 18**—In the nearly unplayable winds of the British Open, **Phil Mickelson** shoots a third-round 85 to fall to last in the tournament... **July 20**—The New York Yankees strand

PHOTO CREDITS: BILLY STRICKLAND/ALLSPORT (SMITH); NATHANIEL S. BUTLER/ALLSPORT (WEBBER); OTTO GREULE/ALLSPORT (CARLESIMO); OTTO GREULE/ALLSPORT (SPREWELL)

former coach was mentally unstable and that he fabricated reasons for dismissing Moore. "I'm looking forward to getting back to what I do best—coaching football," Davie said after judgment was passed.

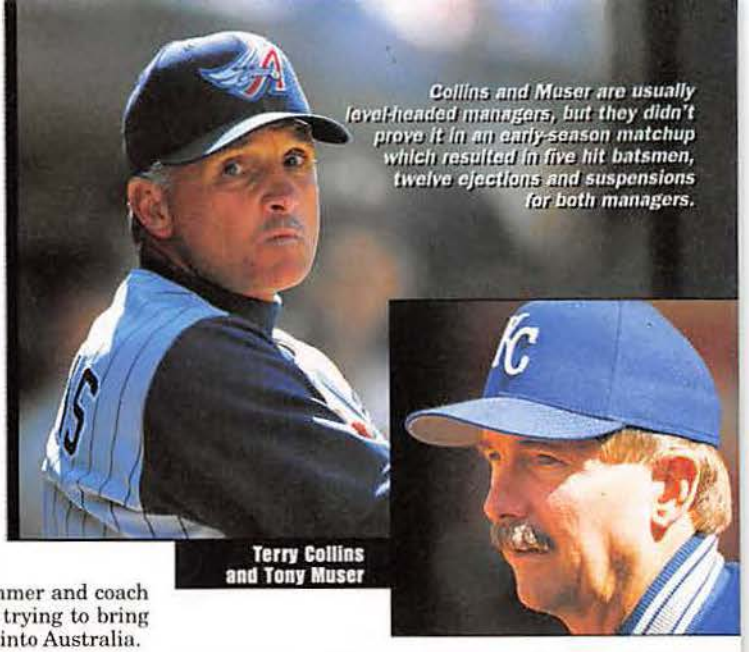
While the hard check is an effective way to slow down a big scorer and a well-accepted part of NHL hockey, Chicago's **Gary Suter** crossed well over the line of what is acceptable. The NHL punished the defenseman for his hopelessly late hit on Anaheim's **Paul Kariya** with a $1,000 fine and four-game suspension. Suter should feel lucky he didn't receive a more severe penalty considering his total disregard for the rules. The incident came during a tight midseason game that Anaheim would win 4-3 in overtime. Kariya, one of the NHL's best playmakers, had snapped a shot into Chicago's net in the second period and was about to celebrate when Suter crashed into Kariya. The collision left Kariya with a concussion and bruised jaw and kept him out of the Mighty Ducks' final 28 games.

Fresh from his team's outstanding season, New Mexico center **Ken Thomas** made this mistake. In early April, Thomas' car crashed into the back of another vehicle on an Albuquerque road. Tests revealed that Thomas's blood alcohol level was .17% and .18%, more than twice the legal limit. He was sentenced to two days in jail and ordered to complete a program on drunken driving.

Good managers keep their players under control, not incite them to riot. Yet the normally clear-headed **Terry Collins** of the Anaheim Angels and **Tony Muser** of the Kansas City Royals lost all common sense by ordering a beanbag war that lasted for three innings of the Angels' 7-5 win. The hostilities began in the top of the seventh inning when Kansas City pitcher **Jim Pittsley** plunked the Angels' **Phil Nevin** on the back. Nevin, who had been hit in an early at-bat by **Chris Haney**, charged the mound. Nevin landed a few punches while the players wrestled on the ground and both benches emptied. Nevin, Pittsley and Royals' coaches **Rich Dauer** and **Jamie Quirk** were ejected. Anaheim retaliated on the first pitch of the bottom of the eighth inning as **Rich DeLucia** hit Kansas City's **Dean Palmer**. DeLucia and Collins were tossed. Kansas City pitcher **Scott Service** responded in the top of the ninth by clipping **Darin Erstad**. He and Muser were then thrown out of the game. Four more ejections followed in the bottom of the ninth when the Angels' **Mike Holtz**—allegedly trying to protect a lead—nicked the Royals' **Jose Offerman**.

FINALLY GOTCHA AWARD

Women swimmers from China have been suspected of using performance-enhancing drugs since they began dominating their sport. So the suspension of five Chinese swimmers and a coach at this year's World Championships was applauded by other teams who felt they had been cheated in past meets. Four of the swimmers tested positive for the banned diuretic triamterene. The fifth swimmer and coach were caught by customs trying to bring human growth hormone into Australia.



Collins and Muser are usually level-headed managers, but they didn't prove it in an early-season matchup which resulted in five hit batsmen, twelve ejections and suspensions for both managers.

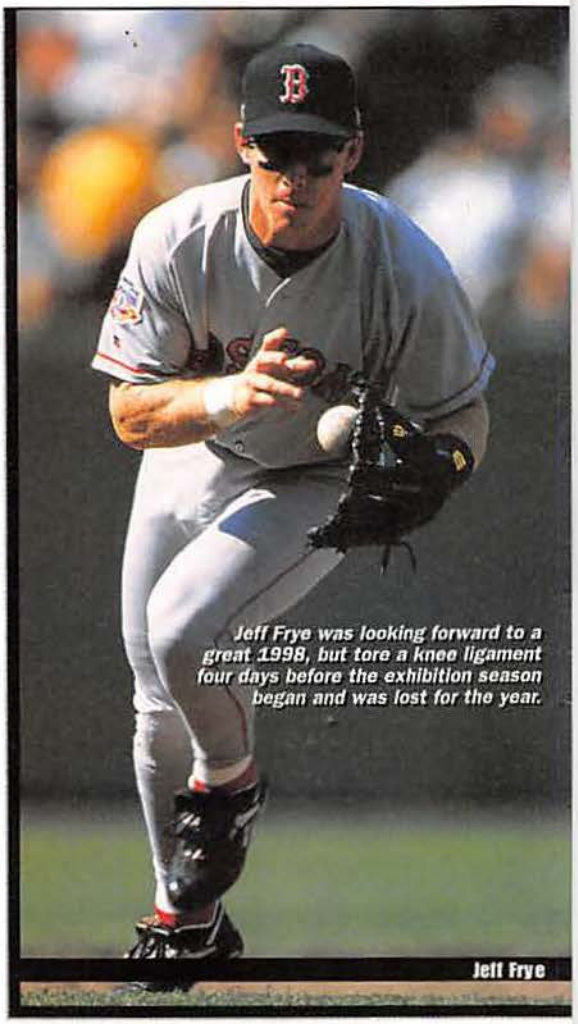
Terry Collins and Tony Muser

MEDIA AWARDS

Super Bowl media day has as much to do with sports as a Martha Stewart cooking hour. This year's embarrassment featured questions ad nauseam for Green Bay lineman **Gilbert Brown**'s (CQ) about his 375-pound heft; and male reporters in heat over the presence of swimsuit model Rebecca Romijn. As if that wasn't enough to turn the most avid sports fan into a theologist, the low point came when two Denver and Green Bay linemen staged an impromptu strength contest, using a lithe, blonde entertainment reporter as their barbell. Green Bay lineman **John Michels** won with six overhead presses to five.

Don't sportscasters have enough clothes? Or are they simply lacking ethics? CBS, the network of Walter Cronkite and Edward Murrow, embarrassed itself when its announcers at the Winter Olympics donned jackets with the Nike swoosh prominently displayed. Fox Sports, a lesser journalism light, allowed tennis announcer and former pro **Leif Shiras** to conduct an interview at the U.S. Indoor Championships in an Adidas jacket. Clothing and shoe companies and the billions they invest in sports have long ago become a steady topic for the media. Networks, large and not so large, should know better than to allow themselves to create even the appearance of being influenced by the people they are supposed to be covering.

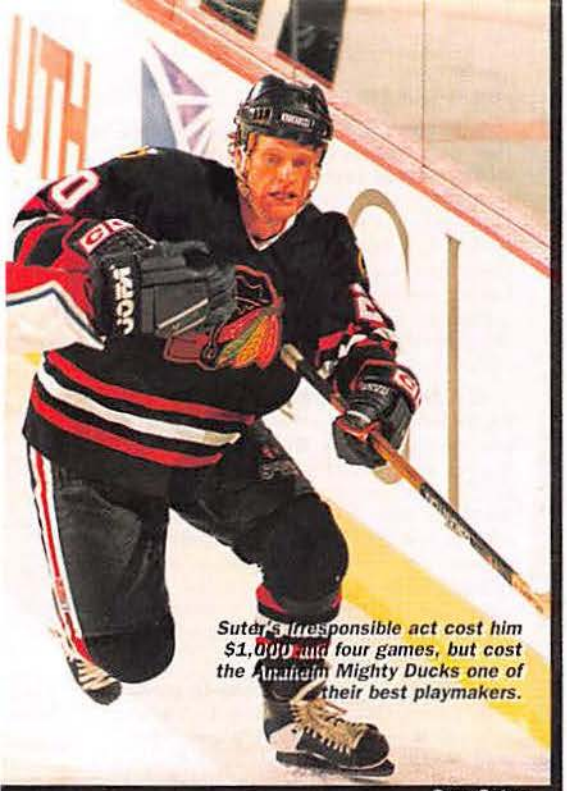
Raspberries to reporters who criticized the University of Connecticut and Villanova women's basketball teams for enabling injured star **Nykesha Sales** to break the school scoring mark. While



Jeff Frye was looking forward to a great 1998, but tore a knee ligament four days before the exhibition season began and was lost for the year.

Jeff Frye

22 runners and leave the bases loaded four times in a 17-inning loss to the Detroit Tigers... **July 25**—In his team's 5-2 loss to Colorado, **Mark McGwire** extends his hitless streak to 15 at bats... **July 26**—At the U.S. Senior Open, **Jack Nicklaus** shoots a 79, his all-time high as a senior golfer... **July 27**—The Oakland A's drop an 11-5 decision to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays—their seventh straight loss... **August 2**—In Major League Soccer's All Star Game, the World All-Stars fall 6-1 to the U.S.A. All-Stars... **August 4**—The rout of the Oakland A's continues: Oakland drops both ends of a double header, 10-4 and 10-5, to the New York Yankees, who score 9 runs alone in the ninth inning of the second game... **August 11**—Unable to handle the pressure of regaining the top ranking in men's tennis, **Marcelo Rios** loses 6-2, 6-3 to 53rd-ranked **Daniel Vacek** in the second round of the ATP Championships... **August 16**—The Tampa Devil Rays defeat the Kansas City Royals 8-3 but remain 42½ games behind the New York Yankees and become the first team eliminated from the division race... **August 17**—The Houston Astros fall 4-0 to the Philadelphia Phillies as **Randy Johnson** absorbs his first National League defeat... **August 23**—The high-priced Baltimore Orioles drop a 4-1 decision to the



Suter's irresponsible act cost him $1,000 and four games, but cost the Anaheim Mighty Ducks one of their best playmakers.

Gary Suter

Although some fans were decent and returned historic home run balls to their rightful owners, others were moved by potential bids for their catches.

McGwire/Sosa Home Run Chase Fans

society has become far too focused on records, Sales' situation was unusual. The senior was just 2 points shy of the record when a ruptured Achilles' tendon ended her career. When Connecticut and Villanova arranged for Sales to score a meaningless basket off the opening tip-off, it angered journalists. They felt that an individual's feats had been placed ahead of common sense, that Sales had not earned the record. Yet they were too hard on the schools, too inflexible in their perspective. Arranging the basket was merely a nice gesture to a brilliant player who suffered bad luck.

The 62nd home run to break Roger Maris' record was supposed to be feel-good history. A nice guy—**Mark McGwire** or **Sammy Sosa**—would break one of baseball's most cherished and hard-won records. But like anything in big-time sports, greed had to spoil the show. The fan who gathered in McGwire's 50th home run seemed to be itching for compensation from McGwire. The Shop at Home Network offered $250,000 to the person who collected No. 62—as long as it was not done through violent means. The network's chief executive officer said his company would use the ball for "business purposes" and then donate it to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Although a St. Louis groundskeeper returned McGwire's 62nd home run ball, subsequent homers by McGwire and Sosa were held for a king's ransom. One fan even requested monetary compensation from the Cardinals (after having returned his ball) for the fans who caught homers 60, 61 and 62. And two other home run balls would end up in court, their owners being challenged by other fans claiming rightful ownership. How unfortunate that anyone would feel the need to profit from someone else's achievement. The right course of action would have been to simply hand over the historic ball, take a hat, a ball or some other piece of equipment in return, and leave it at that.

To the French television networks that provided the feed for the World Cup, a big *non, merci*. Camera angles changed with no apparent warning, often to the detriment of viewers trying to watch key plays.

BAD BREAKS

At 31, Jeff Frye was sitting pretty. The Boston Red Sox second baseman was coming off the best season of his career. He'd signed a lucrative three-year contract and was penned in as Boston's second baseman and leadoff hitter. But four days before the first spring training game, during a harmless rundown drill, Frye's cleat caught in the ground. Players near him heard a pop and he was driven off the field in a golf cart. The verdict: a torn knee ligament. The result: surgery, and a new leadoff hitter for the Red Sox.

The House that Ruth built crumbled under George. Hours before the first game of an early season series between the New York Yankees and Anaheim Angels, a 500-pound steel joint fell through the roof of Yankee Stadium and obliterated a seat in the loge level. No one was injured, but the incident forced cancellation of the contest on a spring day that was perfect for baseball. It also buttressed the argument of Yankee owner **George Steinbrenner** that the 75-year-old stadium was outdated and that the team needed a new home. The fallen piece had been part of the original structure, which was renovated in the mid 1970s. The teams moved part of their series to nearby Shea Stadium, the home of the Mets, and made up the other two games during the summer. Still, it was curious that Steinbrenner had not conducted sufficiently rigorous inspections on a structure that he deemed so inadequate.

Goran Ivanisevic and Mark Philippoussis were just clowning around. But their impromptu soccer game with a tennis ball during the quarterfinals of the Canadian Open left Ivanisevic with a nasty gash on his head, Philippoussis with an ugly bump, and their opponents **Mark Knowles** and **Daniel Nestor** with a default victory. Ivanisevic, the unpredictable, three-time Wimbledon finalist from Croatia, and Philippoussis, a big-hitting Australian, had tried to head the tennis ball but instead hit each other. Ivanisevic required six stitches to repair his wound.

It is clear that Dallas Cowboys' lineman Everett McIver suffered a severe gash from a scissors while he was visiting a team barber. What was still murky as this publication went to press is whether he was slashed intentionally by wide receiver **Michael Irvin** as the pair scuffled, or the wound was the innocent result of horseplay. The Cowboys insisted that the 320-pound McIver's injury resulted from an accident—boys being boys, not knowing their own strength, whatever. Neither Irvin nor McIver were saying much and a rumor started that McIver had been paid to stay quiet. Journalists who have covered the lately troubled franchise had good reason to be suspicious. Irvin, who is on probation for pleading no contest to the felony charge of cocaine possession in 1996, is the

JEERS

Cleveland Indians and fall eight games beyond Boston in the wild card race... **August 25**—Could it be, the Yankees are slumping? Sort of: They drop their third straight game, a 7-6 nailbiter to the California Angels... **August 26**—After just one year, the Long Beach Sting Rays of the women's American Basketball League fold... **August 27**—The Montreal Expos drop a 10-9 decision to the Los Angeles Dodgers and run their losing streak to eight... **August 30**—With a chance to pick up ground on the New York Mets in the race for the National League wild card playoff spot, the San Francisco Giants lose 5-4 to the Philadelphia Phillies... ... **Sept. 7**—The Atlanta Braves fall 8-7 to the New York Mets and lose a game in the race for the National League's best record... **Sept. 9**—Navy falls 26-14 to Wake Forest... **Mark McGwire** goes homerless and the St. Louis Cardinals manage just five hits in a 6-3 loss to the Cincinnati Reds... **Sept. 19**—**Ryan Leaf** completes just one pass in San Diego's 23-7 loss to Kansas City... **Sept. 22**—The New York Mets drop a 3-0 lead on their way to a 5-3 loss to the Montreal Expos... **Sept. 27**—The New York Mets drop three straight to Atlanta, running their season-ending losing streak to five and missing out on the wild card by one game.

PHOTO CREDITS: RICK STEWART/ALLSPORT (COLLINS); OTTO GRUELE/ALLSPORT (MOSER); BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT (SUTER); DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT (FRYE); ELIOT SCHECTER/ALLSPORT (McGWIRE FANS)

team's best wide receiver.

Down, boy. Ouch, that hurts! Yankees pitcher **David Cone** didn't say the first two words and wound up exclaiming the last three when Veronica, his mother's four-month-old Jack Russell terrier, bit him on the index finger of his pitching hand. The wound prevented Cone from making his next scheduled start. Considering that he was supposed to face Tampa Bay, Cone sacrificed a probable win. The interesting footnote to the episode: it gave highly touted Cuban import **Orlando Hernandez** his first start. Hernandez pitched so well that he earned a permanent spot in the Yankees' already strong rotation.

Careful off the field: Dan Kendra wasn't while he mixed several household chemicals at his Tallahassee, Fla., apartment. The concoction exploded in his face and the Florida State quarterback received 28 stitches in his nose, chest and stomach.

What was Ronaldo's mysterious illness? Soccer's most dangerous scorer, the man who was supposed to just about guarantee a Brazilian defense of its 1994 World Cup, was taken to the hospital a couple of hours before the final against France. He was not cleared to play until less than an hour before kickoff. Even then, coaches said he was not fit to play. Doctors later said his ailment was stress related but did not expand much on their diagnosis.

THE COACHES NEED A BREAK AWARD

The Denver Nuggets saddled coach Bill Hanzlik with the sorriest roster of players an NBA team has had in more than two decades. Then it fired him for not winning. How absurd. Hanzlik, a likable and well-respected former player, did a creditable job of maintaining his team's morale. That more than anything kept Denver from breaking the league record for fewest wins. Only a couple of players would have seen significant playing time on other teams. With more talent, he undoubtedly would have won more games. Denver never gave him a fair chance.

With a talented but young and unpredictable team, did the Los Angeles Lakers really think that coaching was their problem? Despite winning 61 games and leading his team to the Western Conference finals, **Del Harris** did not receive a resounding vote of confidence until more than two weeks after his team had been eliminated in the playoffs by Utah. That was the Lakers' mistake and an unfair blow to a fine coach. Harris' problem—if problem is a fitting word here—is that he is not charismatic. He does not regularly tout his own abilities; foster, as two of his more famed colleagues—**Pat Riley** and **Rick Pitino**—do, the image of corporate titan or new age philosopher. With his white hair and understated manner, he seems more professor than coaching material. Too bad—image matters in L.A.

Anaheim's proximity to Hollywood suggests that some stand-up comic is running the Mighty Ducks' front office. Or is that **Jack Ferreira**? You may judge. A year ago, the team's general manager fired **Ron Wilson** a little over two months after Wilson had guided Anaheim to the best season of its young history. Ferreira cited philosophical differences as the reason for the dismissal. He hired **Pierre Page**, who had enjoyed just one winning season with a Quebec team that would move to Colorado and win a Stanley Cup under different leadership. Page was even worse at getting Anaheim to play well. The Mighty Ducks won 10 fewer games and finished out of the playoffs. That did not sit well with Ferreira. Nor did Wilson's appearance with the Washington Capitals in the Stanley Cup finals. So Ferreira fired Page, claiming—what else—philosophical differences with his coach.

National soccer federations are ridiculous in their expectations. They do not allow more than a couple of slip-ups in a sport where often only a goal separates the best from the worst teams. Exhibit one: South Korea and Saudi Arabia fired their coaches before their final World Cup games. Never mind that both coaches had little talent. Exhibit two: Brazil's **Mario Seagull**. In two stints as head coach, the silver-hairdo Seagull won the 1970 World Cup, reached the 1998 final, and led his team to a spectacular record of 107-12 with 29 ties. The loss this year to France, which played a nearly flawless game in its home stadium, irked the Brazilian federation. It dismissed him.

COMEUPPANCE AWARD

The ever-quotable Andre Agassi was a little too quotable for his own good. After beating **Vine Spadea** at the Lipton Championships, he called his fellow American backcourt player "a journeyman." Spadea remembered the comment five months later in Cincinnati and outfought Agassi over three tough sets.

SPECIAL TRAVEL AWARD

This new honor goes to the eight NBA referees who downgraded airline tickets purchased by the league and pocketed the difference without reporting their windfall to the IRS.

SIX GREAT EL FOLDOS

1. After absorbing two straight beatings from the powerful Yankees, the Oakland A's finally looked as if they would win a game against New York. Their ace **Kenny Rogers** was up 5-1 and three outs away from taking a measure of revenge against the team that couldn't wait to get rid of him after two bad seasons. But New York put a couple of runners on base, and with Rogers tiring, manager **Art Howe** called for his bullpen. Nine runs later, Rogers had a no-decision and the Yankees were on their way to a 10-5 victory.

2. Entering their series with the Utah Jazz, the Los Angeles Lakers' confidence was understandable. They had dismissed Seattle with remarkable ease, causing Sonics' coach **George Karl** to say that he'd never seen a team as good as his so dominated. About the only people who weren't impressed were the Jazz. Inside a few minutes of the teams' opening playoff game, Utah had frustrated Los Angeles' inside game. Los Angeles quickly showed that except for **Shaquille O'Neal**, it didn't have the heart for a fight. The Lakers rolled over in four games.

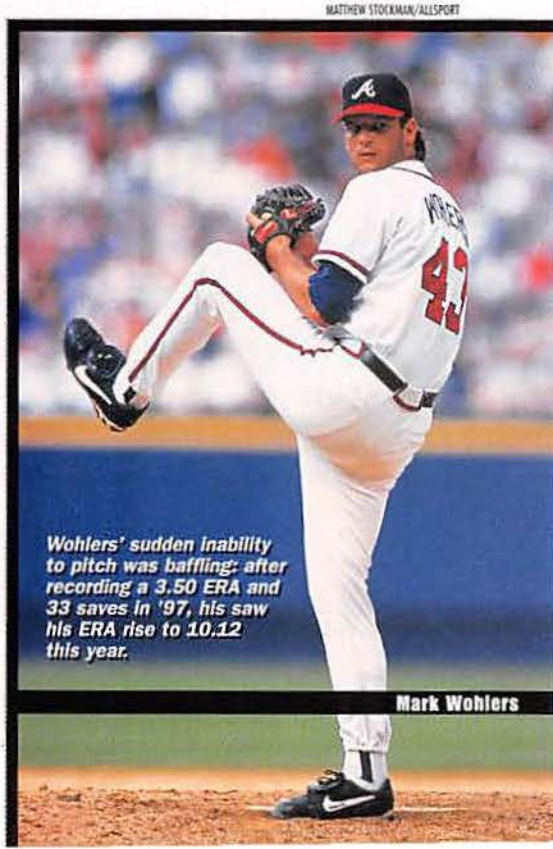
3. Following their 1997 appearance in the conference finals, and with **Mike Richter**, **Brian Leetch** and **Wayne Gretzky** returning, the New York Rangers were supposed to compete for a division championship. But the Rangers started slowly and never recovered. The offense struggled. Leetch never approached a positive plus-minus, on-ice ratio. Richter played erratically. In the end, New York had finished out of the playoffs.

4. A dominating pitcher's sudden inability to punch out batters is a mysterious phenomenon. **Mark Wohlers**, the Atlanta Braves' once top-notch closer, became just the latest hurler to suffer this fate. Wohlers, who had mowed down hitters with a mid-90s fastball and commanding presence on the mound, was so bad that Atlanta sent him down to the minors. Upon his return, he wasn't much better, and Atlanta finished the season with a hole in their bullpen.

5. The U.S. was supposed to medal in this year's Olympic hockey tournament. Indeed, some experts were predicting a gold medal. Yet the team read too much into these prognostications and failed to bring their fighting spirit to Japan. It finished a dismal third in its first-round group and then fell easily to the Czech Republic.

6. This was supposed to be the year that the U.S. firmly established itself on the world soccer stage. The team had a bunch of players with experience in European and international competition and a new 1-6-3 formation that seemed difficult for other teams to crack. But the U.S. suffered a bad case of nerves in its first game against Germany, got overanxious against Iran, and couldn't muster much spirit against Yugoslavia. Based on its 0-3 record and goal difference, it finished last in the 32-team field.

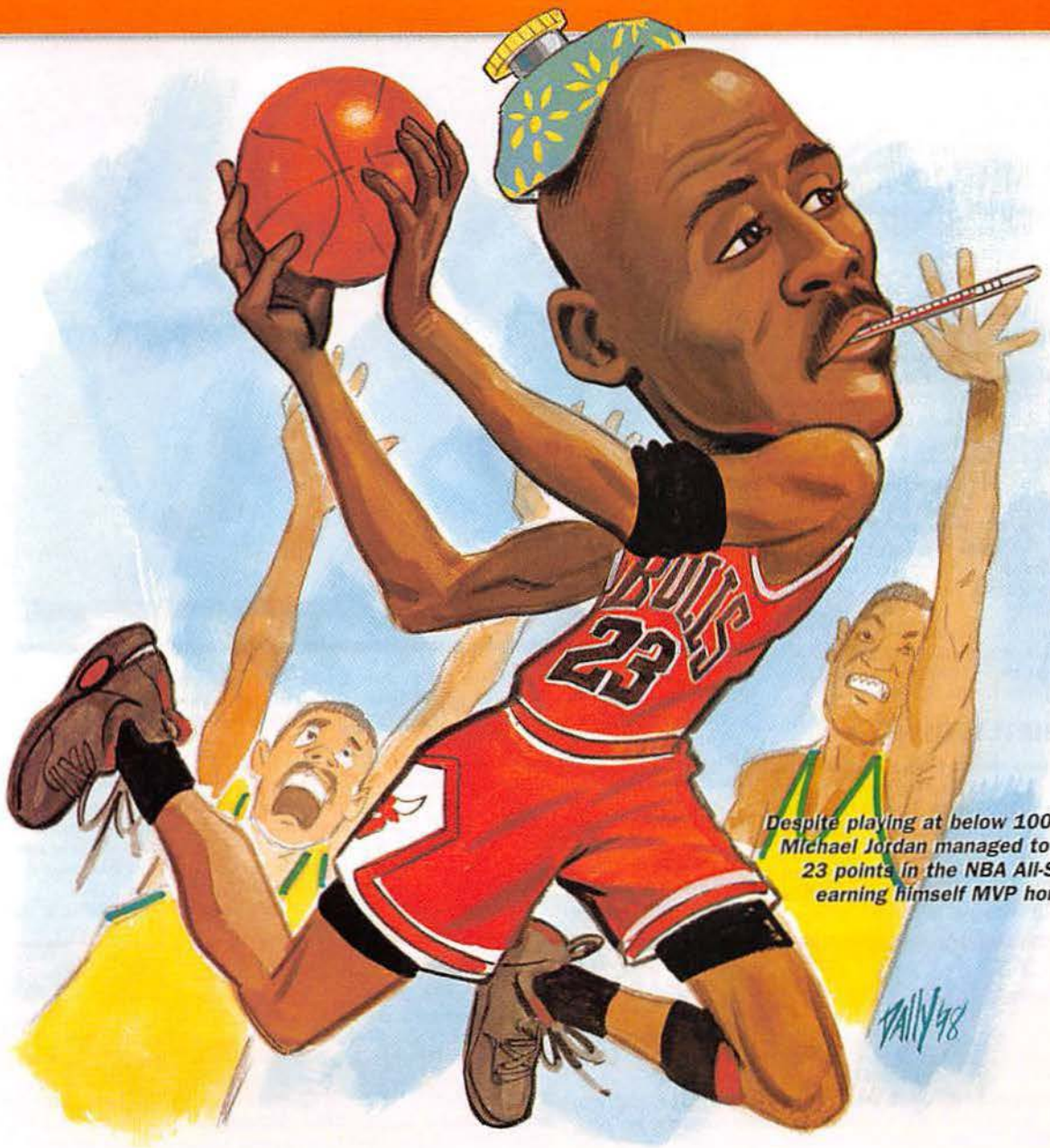
MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT



Wohlers' sudden inability to pitch was baffling: after recording a 3.50 ERA and 33 saves in '97, his saw his ERA rise to 10.12 this year.

Mark Wohlers

Feats



Despite playing at below 100%, Michael Jordan managed to score 23 points in the NBA All-Star Game, earning himself MVP honors.

INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

Even the players had criticized the NHL All-Star Game for its frivolous atmosphere. They understood that hockey with too many goals and too little contact was little more than ice dancing with sticks.

The problem was not so easily remedied, though. Tighter checking would mean more bumps for marquee stars. What player would want to be the one to bump **Wayne Gretzky** too hard and possibly injure him. Also, scores might drop to boring levels.

NHL masterminds thought hard and long before coming up with a solution. International competitions were hot. European players, once a rarity, were flooding the NHL. It was an Olympic year.

Why not pit North American players against the rest of the world?

The game in Vancouver proved that the masterminds were right. The World All-Stars jumped to a 3-0 lead as Anaheim's (and Finland's) **Teemu Selanne** sandwiched two goals around a tally by Pittsburgh's (and the Czech Republic's) **Jaromir Jagr**. The North American All-Stars clawed back and knotted the score before the first period had ended.

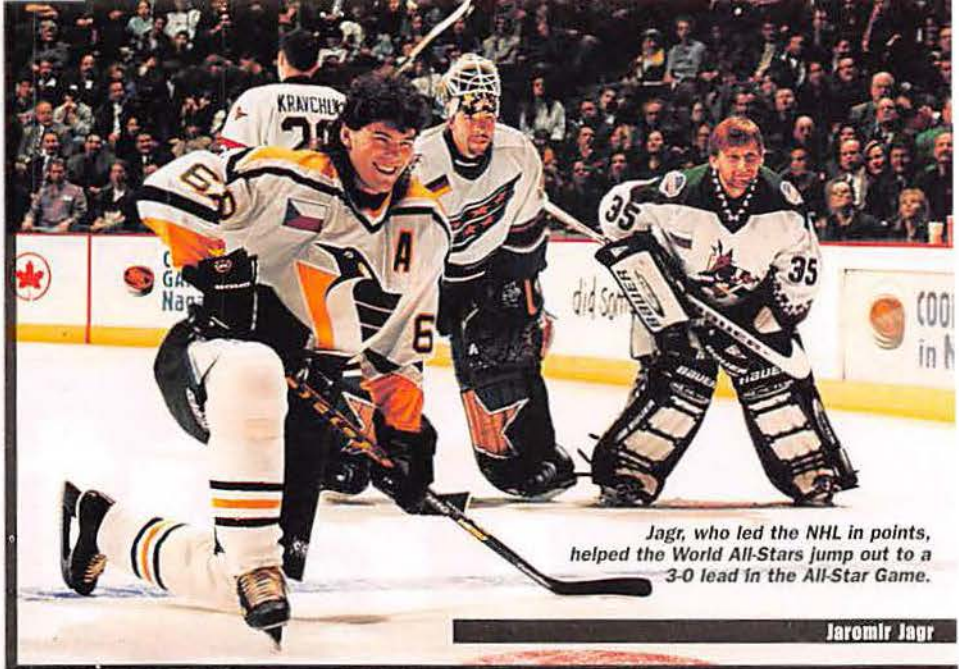
They took the lead early in the second period, relinquished it when Selanne and his ageless countryman **Jari Kurri** scored, but then regained it for good by scoring the next four goals. The last of these saw Gretzky and his old teammate **Mark Messier** complete a two-on-one rush and leave hockey hearts pounding.

The erstwhile teammates had given the league so many exciting moments, but were nearing the end of their careers. The new format had enable them to work together once more. Messier's game was fittingly the game winner as the World All-Stars scored the final two goals of the game to cut the margin to 8-7.

"There's just some magic sometimes that happens and never goes away," said Messier. "It just felt it was like yesterday."

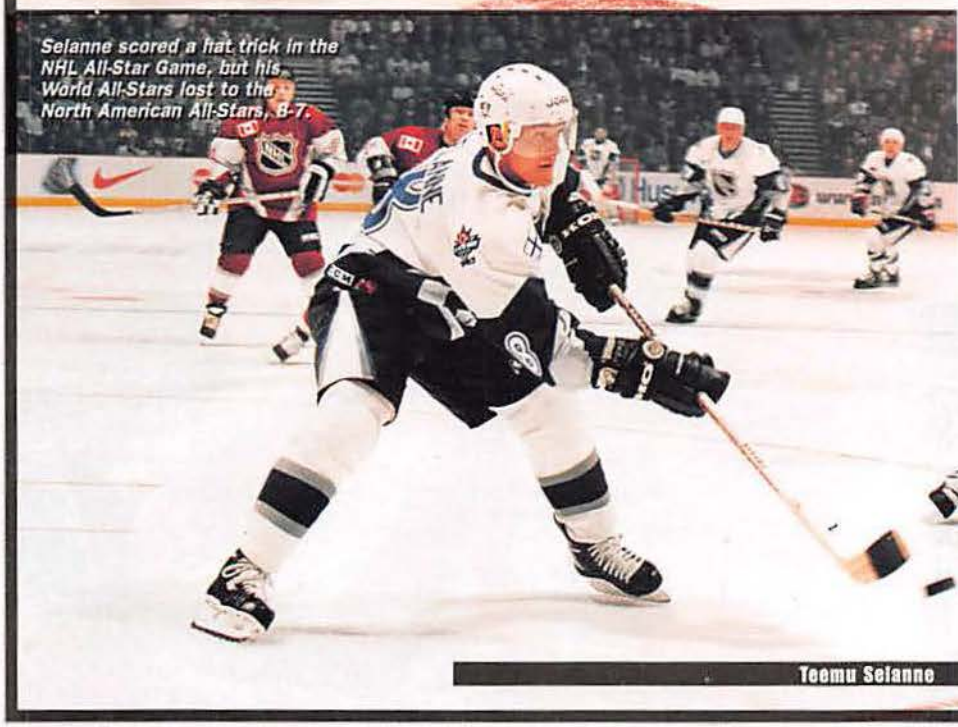
To a man, the All-Stars liked the international flavor of the game. "I think the intensity of the game was upgraded from previous years. It's never going to be like a Stanley Cup game, but it kind of established a rivalry."

Meanwhile, the World All-Stars did not leave without consolation. Selanne's hat trick, the first by a European in NHL history, carried him to the MVP award.



Jagr, who led the NHL in points, helped the World All-Stars jump out to a 3-0 lead in the All-Star Game.

Jaromir Jagr



Selanne scored a hat trick in the NHL All-Star Game, but his World All-Stars lost to the North American All-Stars, 8-7.

Teemu Selanne

QUIETLY, QUIETLY

Of the two horses that Bob Baffert entered in the 124th running of the Kentucky Derby, **Indian Charlie** received most of the attention. The interest was misplaced.

Real Quiet would win racing's most important race and open one of the most exciting Triple Crown seasons in recent memory. Real Quiet would go on to take the Preakness before **Victory Gallop** edged him at the Belmont Stakes.

The funny-looking three-year-old, who had finished a strong second to Indian Charlie at Santa Anita, was a little-mentioned, 8-1 fifth choice with betters. Baffert had nicknamed Real Quiet "The Fish" because he looked better from the side than head-on. Real Quiet's best chance seemed to depend on Indian Charlie's ability to handle the 1¼ mile distance—⅛th of a mile longer than the Santa Anita race. If the extra yardage was too much, and other horses faltered, the thinking was he could sneak in first.

Only Indian Charlie's jockey **Gary Stevens** knew that this thinking was wrong. He had reviewed the Santa Anita race and seen how Real Quiet had closed valiantly on a track that did not favor late runners. He figured Real Quiet as his most dangerous competition.

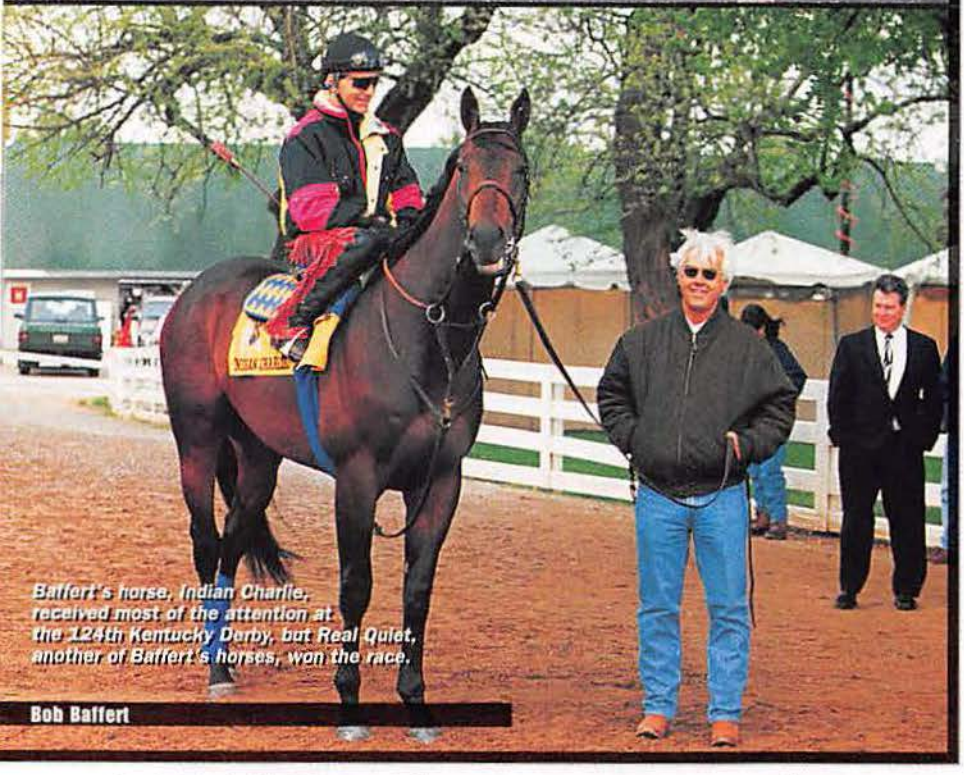
Stevens' concern was justified in the end

SPECTACULAR STATS

Jan. 6—The Calgary Flames surprise the Colorado Avalanche 3-1... **Jan. 7**—The University of Mississippi tops Florida 90-79 to tie the school record with their 15th consecutive home victory... **Jan. 9**—Knick tormentor **Michael Jordan** scores 44 points to lead Chicago to an 90-89 victory over New York at Madison Square Garden... **Jan. 10**—**Scottie Pippen** returns to the Chicago Bulls' lineup and notches 14 points, 5 assists and 4 rebounds in an 87-82 victory over the Golden State Warriors... **Jan. 12**—The University of Arizona women's basketball team defeats Stanford 91-90 on a last-second shot by **Reshea Bristol** to snap Stanford's 48-game Pac-10 winning streak... **Jan. 13**—**Michael Jordan** scores 40 points and the Chicago Bulls top the Seattle Super Sonics 101-91... **Jan. 15**—In a battle of the teams with the best records in the Eastern and Western conferences, Seattle defeats visiting Miami 103-85... **Jan. 16**—**Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario** defeats **Venus Williams** 6-3, 6-1 to win the Sydney International, her first tournament triumph in 20 months... **Jan. 18**—At the world swimming championships in Perth, Australia,

The drug scandal that forced the withdrawal of several top teams did not diminish Pantani's victory.

Marco Pantani



Baffert's horse, Indian Charlie, received most of the attention at the 124th Kentucky Derby, but Real Quiet, another of Baffert's horses, won the race.

Bob Baffert

as Real Quiet held off Victory Gallop at the finish line with Indian Charlie a game but overmatched third. The victory by his horse made popular Baffert just the sixth trainer to win back-to-back Kentucky Derbies. He had won his first in 1997 with **Silver Charm**.

Real Quiet and Indian Charlie broke from the gate in relatively good shape, although Real Quiet bumped a horse on his way to the rail. Indian Charlie lay fourth at the quarter mile with Real Quiet just a couple of lengths and three horses behind him. Along the backstretch they threaded their way up to the front with Real Quiet always a little ahead.

Then just before the mile, Real Quiet cruised past Indian Charlie. Stevens knew he did not have enough horse to answer the charge. He battled gamely and maintained speed while Indian Charlie opened ground on everyone except Victory Gallop.

The 14-1 Victory Gallop had drawn the number 13 position and been unable to find space inside for much of the race. At the mile he was still five horses and better than three lengths behind Real Quiet. But he sped past Indian Charlie near the end and was just a quarter-length behind Real Quiet at the finish line.

For his part, Baffert once again charmed anyone who ran across him with his unaffected exuberance. At the end, he was hoarse from a week of interviews and from his cheering throughout the race.

VICTORY IN A TAINTED TOUR

It seemed fitting that the weather changed several times over the final day of the Tour de France. Rain and wind followed sunshine and in turn led to overcast skies.

This is as it should be for one of sports' grandest events and most colorful finishes along Paris' Champs d'Elysee. This year's event may be remembered as one of cycling's blackest hours.

But the drug scandal that forced the withdrawal of several top teams did not stop the Tour or diminish the victory of Italy's **Marco Pantani**. Nor did it lessen the achievements of **Jan Ulrich**, the defending champion who battled back from a dreadful day in the mountains to finish second; or **Bobby Julich**, who became the first American since **Greg LeMond** in 1990 to stand on the final platform.

Julich finished third.

The race began somewhat quietly in Ireland as France continued to glow in its World Cup triumph. A couple of days into the 21-day grind, England's **Chris Boardman**, one of the favorites, provided the first fireworks when he crashed and broke his wrist.

A few days later, race officials expelled Festina, which was favored for the team championship, after its coach acknowledged that his charges were taking performance-enhancing drugs. Amidst rumors that such drug use was rampant, six of the remaining 20 teams subsequently withdrew and the original field of 189 riders was halved.

The scandal occurred after French police confiscated capsules and pills that stimulate the production of red blood cells and therefore boost endurance. Among the suspected athletes was Italy's **Rudolfo Massi**, who was the race's leading mountain climber to that point.

Cycling's top bureaucrats were left to ponder how they could rid the sport of this problem.

Meanwhile, the 5-6, 135-pound Pantani, who is nicknamed "The Pirate" for the ban-

Lenny Krayzelburg wins the 100-meter backstroke to complete his sweep of the 100- and 200-meter backstroke events... **Jan. 26**—In the quarterfinals of the Australian Open, **Lindsay Davenport** defeats **Venus Williams** 1-6, 7-5, 6-3... **Jan. 29**—Defending national champion Arizona shows it's a threat to repeat by routing Stanford on the road 93-75... **Feb. 1**: In a game between bitter rivals, the New York Knicks defeat the Miami Heat 89-83... **Feb. 6**—In a 2-2 tie with the Buffalo Sabres, the Pittsburgh Penguins' **Jaromir Jagr** scores the 700th point of his career... **Feb. 7**—In the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the United States defeats Costa Rica 2-1... **Feb. 9**—After defeating Duke and Georgia Tech, North Carolina regains the top spot in the national rankings... **Feb. 14**: At the Olympics, the U.S. women's hockey team defeats Canada 7-4... **Feb. 15**—In Nagano, Switzerland shocks favored Canada for the first Olympic gold medal in men's curling... **Feb. 16**—North Carolina, Duke, Arizona, Kansas... and Princeton—yes, Princeton—moves up to No. 9 in college basketball's weekly rankings... **Feb. 17**—The Chicago Bulls show Indiana who is still boss in the Eastern Conference by thrashing the Pacers 105-97... **Feb. 18**—In Germany, in her first match in nearly nine months, **Steffi Graf** shows that her injured

PHOTO CREDITS: JEFF KINNICK/ALLSPORT (JAGR); JEFF VINNICK/ALLSPORT (SELANNE); ALEX LIVESSY/ALLSPORT (PANTANI); ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT (BAFFERT)

danna he wears on his bald head, rode an intelligent race. He stayed close on flat terrain and opened a big lead on the favored Ulrich and the surprising Julich in the mountains. It was "The Pirate's" second big victory following his win in the Giro d'Italia, which is widely considered cycling's second biggest event.

He sipped from a champagne glass while still on his bike, and beamed throughout the awards ceremony. Julich was overjoyed to tears but said he hoped to move up to the top step in next year's race.

WORLD CHAMPIONS

Now that the U.S. women have their own professional basketball leagues, prospects for the rest of the world don't look so good. The U.S. team, a combination of the squad that romped to the Olympic gold medal in 1996 and younger talent, went undefeated at the world championships in Germany. Only Russia threatened the Americans as the U.S. had to overcome a nine-point halftime deficit. In the end, **Lisa Leslie**, arguably the world's best woman player, and Atlanta veteran **Ruthie Bolton-Holifield** spurred the second half rally that secured a win.

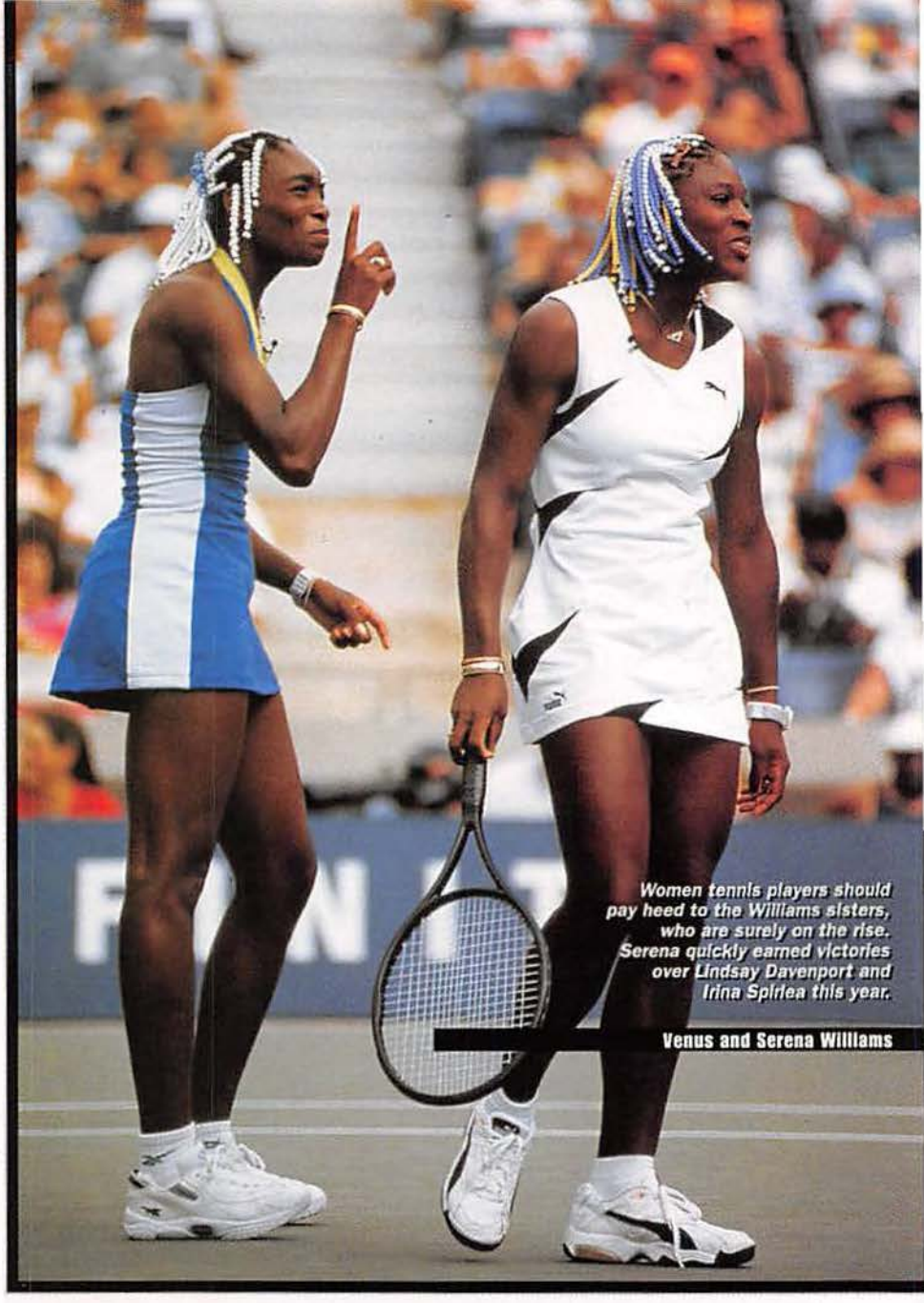
A few years earlier, before the start-up of the ABL and WNBA, such a comeback might not have occurred. Although the Americans were more talented than their competition, they lacked teamwork and motivation. Without their own professional leagues, they were strewn all over the world in countries that had long-standing pro competition—Italy, Spain, Japan and Germany. They gathered for only a few weeks before an important competition. They knew that interest at home in women's basketball was minimal.

At the 1994 world championships, the U.S. lost to Brazil, an athletic team that treated defense as an afterthought. Indeed, the U.S. had not won a world championship since 1990.

But those failures created an understanding that the U.S. would have to prepare more diligently if it would win the most important international competitions. The concurrent rise in popularity of women's college basketball led to the two major pro leagues, the first in which women could earn a decent living by playing the sport.

The combination of events have clearly led to success. The U.S. was never seriously challenged in Atlanta. Still, that was on home turf, an easier place to do well. The world championship this year was more impressive, coming in foreign territory. The team routed its group competition and coasted even more easily in its quarterfinal and semifinal games—the latter win coming against Brazil. In the final Leslie had 20 points and Bolton-Holifield 11. The younger players on the team, among them Tennessee junior **Chamika Holdsclaw**, also played well.

Now with back-to-back triumphs in the two biggest international tournaments going, there is little question about who is best.



Women tennis players should pay heed to the Williams sisters, who are surely on the rise. Serena quickly earned victories over Lindsay Davenport and Irina Spirlea this year.

Venus and Serena Williams

A BEAR HIBERNATES

Jack Nicklaus had played championship level golf for so long that it didn't seem possible that he might one day retire. In April, he had treated fans to one of the sports most thrilling rides of 1990s by finishing sixth at the Masters.

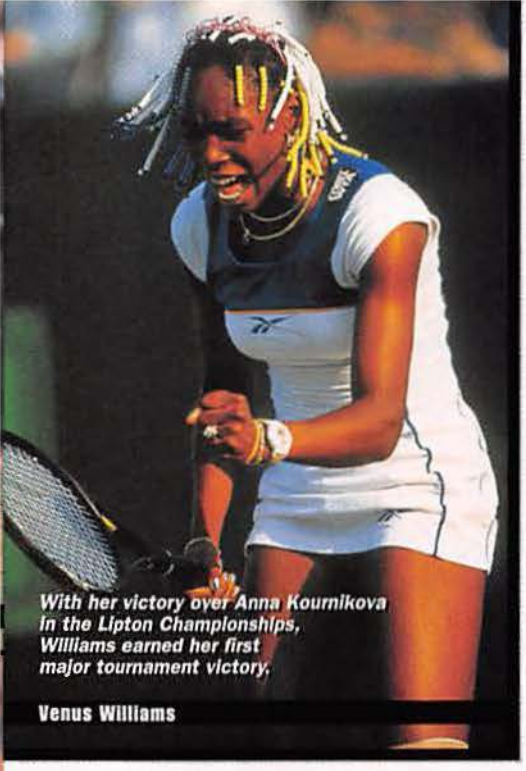
At one point on the final day, he lay just two strokes off the lead. He was 58 and hobbling from a sore left hip.

Two months later, he handled the gruesomely difficult Olympic course at the U.S. Open better than most of the field. He made the cut and finished a respectable 43rd.

The British Open was up next. But

knee is sound, defeating compatriot **Andrea Glass** 6-4, 6-2... **Feb. 19**—Arizona's **Miles Simon** rebounds a missed free throw, dribbles the length of the court and sinks the winning basket just before the buzzer in a 71-70 victory over Oregon... **Feb. 22**—The New York Knicks silence mouthy **Charles Barkley** by holding the Rockets to 8 fourth-quarter points and beating Houston 92-74... **Feb. 26**—Following the break for the Winter Olympic Games, play resumes in the NHL with the defending champion Detroit Red Wings tying the Los Angeles Kings 1-1... **March 1**—The Long Beach Sting Rays defeat the Portland Power 70-69 to capture their three-game series and advance to the final of the women's American Basketball League playoffs... **March 3**—Butler defeats Wisconsin-Green Bay 70-51 to win its second consecutive Midwestern Collegiate Conference tournament and NCAA bid... **March 7**—The University of Cincinnati defeats North Carolina-Charlotte 71-57 in the final of the Conference USA tournament to qualify for its sixth straight NCAA tournament... **March 8**—The Western Athletic and Southeastern Conference send four teams apiece to the National Invitation Tournament... **March 9**—The Phoenix Suns defeat the Los Angeles Clippers 134-105 for their 40th win of 1997-98, match-

PHOTO CREDITS: MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT (WILLIAMS SISTERS); CLIVE BRUNSKILL/ALLSPORT (VENUS WILLIAMS)



With her victory over Anna Kournikova in the Lipton Championships, Williams earned her first major tournament victory.

Venus Williams

Nicklaus surprised the golf world by withdrawing. He didn't feel he could prepare adequately or play up to his usual lofty standards. His left hip was too troublesome and would probably require surgery.

His withdrawal snapped his string of grand slam tournaments at 154. He had not missed one of golf's crown jewel events since the Kennedy administration.

A week later, Nicklaus said that he would play all four majors in the year 2000 and then retire from competitive golf. "We've all got to stop sometime, and I don't think it's any big deal," he said.

SISTER ACT

Other players may never cotton to the Williams sisters. But they better get used to them winning, as **Venus** did at the Lipton Championships.

You may remember Venus, the lanky 17-year-old phenom from Los Angeles. She offended her colleagues with her trash-talking while reaching the U.S. Open final. Younger sister **Serena**, a quieter, less publicized talent, bounded onto the scene this year. By the end of January, she'd defeated **Lindsay Davenport** and **Irina Spirlea** and played her older sister for the first time as a professional, losing in straight sets at the Australian Open.

Venus lost to top-ranked **Martina Hingis**, but two months later at the Lipton, the most important event after the four Grand Slams, she reversed her loss and also took revenge for her sister. Serena had held two match points for a straight sets win in the fourth round, but let Hingis slip away.

Her older sister nearly let a similar lead slip away before regrouping to win in three sets. Hingis feigned a lack of concern. Indeed, she was still ranked well ahead of both sisters, neither of whom had won a tournament of any stature.

But the matched signaled a sea change in what promised to be a long rivalry. Serena at 5-10 with the muscles of a top-flight sprinter, and Venus at a sinewy 6-2 were bigger, more powerful and athletic than the 5-5 Hingis.

They had at times overwhelmed the smaller player, especially Venus who hit a number of serves that were fast enough for the men's tour. What's more, they had also shown more savvy than before.

Hingis wears an annoying smirk regardless of whether or not she's winning. It is both a sign of her confidence and means of intimidating opponents. Perhaps it was the way she glanced around the stadium as another Venus winner sailed by her. But her trademark expression seemed empty, as if she knew that there was nothing she could do to stop Venus.

A day later, Venus dropped a set to **Anna Kournikova** but then blitzed through the next two sets. She had her first big tournament win.

SAMPRAS SHOWS 'EM

He was the world's top-ranked player, but for the first time in five years **Pete Sampras** wasn't the overwhelming favorite to win Wimbledon. Sampras had struggled throughout the first half of 1998. In fact, in early April he'd dropped to number two for a few weeks before regaining his position. He'd lost to a hodgepodge of journeymen players, the type he usually handled easily, and failed to win a tournament of any consequence.

"He is playing like the number-10 player in the world right now," said **Richard Krajicek**, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, who was merely echoing a number of players' assessment.

Yet they ignored the role that a court surface and venue plays in determining a player's ranking. Sampras was no number 10 on a grasscourt at Wimbledon. The low and often skidding bounce that the All England Club's courts produce was just the cure for his sick game. It made his big serve nearly impossible to return, and long groundstroke rallies, which had bedeviled him for months, a rarity.

Blessed with a draw that did not include any high-caliber serve-and-volley players, Sampras plowed through his first five opponents with little trouble. In the semis he faced **Tim Henman**, England's first legitimate Wimbledon hope in decades. Henman

FEATS continued on page 108

ing their total of the previous season... **March 18**—The Pittsburgh Penguins defeat the Edmonton Oilers 4-2 and with 14 games remaining match their 84 points of the previous season... **March 24**—Buffalo defeats Calgary 2-0 as **Dominik Hasek** notches his league-leading 2-0 shutout... **April 3**—**Felix Trinidad** fights for the first time in Puerto Rico in five years and knocks out **Mahenge Zulu** in the 12th round to defend his International Boxing Federation welterweight title... **April 6**—The nearly fanless Carolina Hurricanes defeat the Boston Bruins 3-0 to move within 2 points of Ottawa for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference... **April 8**—The New York Knicks edge closer to playoff territory by beating the Miami Heat 83-80... **April 9**—Coach **George Karl** garners his 500th victory as the Seattle Super Sonics defeat the Dallas Mavericks 103-101... **April 19**—The Seattle

SOSA PHOTO CREDITS (TOP TO BOTTOM): JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT; JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT; JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT; TIM BROEKEMA/ALLSPORT; JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT; JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

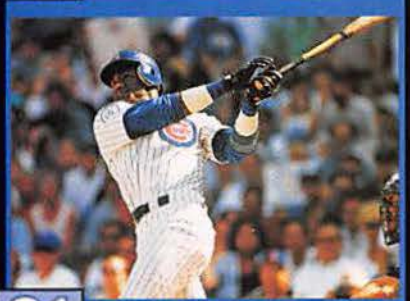
Sammy Sosa hit 66 HR, passing Roger Maris to rank second on the list of single-season home run leaders. Only Mark McGwire hit more—70, this season.

57 Sept. 5 at Pitt.

Sept. 5 at Pitt. **58**

59 September 11 vs. Milwaukee

60 September 12 vs. Milwaukee



61 September 13 vs. Milwaukee

62 September 13 vs. Milwaukee

SAMMY SOSA PASSES ROGER MARIS' 61 HR.

McGwire hits 70!

56 September 1 at Florida

57 September 1 at Florida

62 September 8 vs. Chicago (NL)

64 September 18 at Milwaukee

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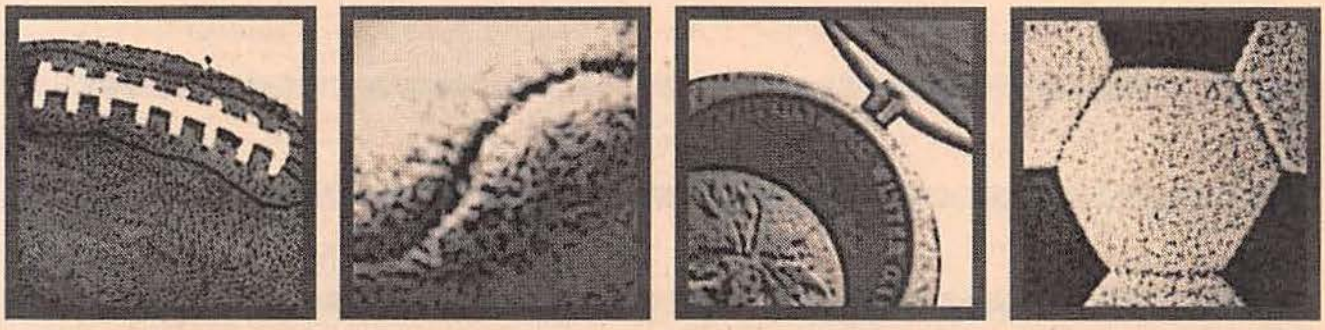
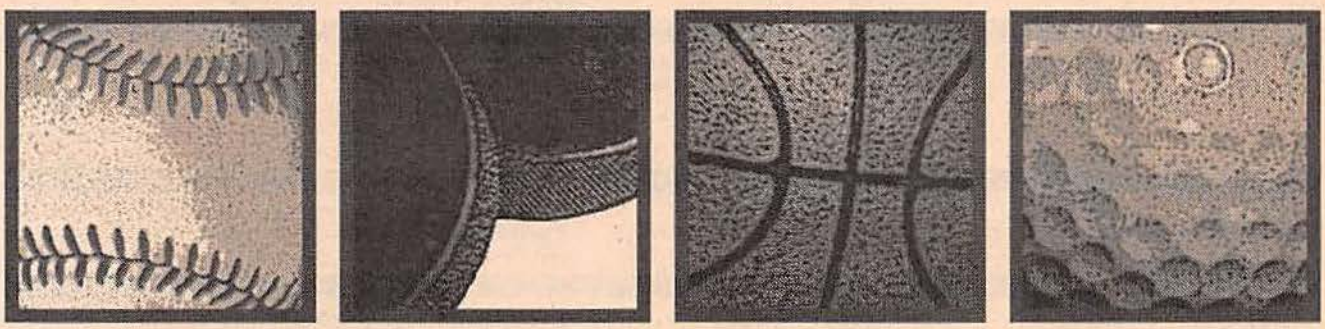


POLLS, BOWLS AND SHOWS



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THE BOWL GAMES

BOWL	RESULT	FINAL REGULAR SEASON AP RANKING	GAME HIGHLIGHTS
ALAMO			
Dec. 30, 1997 *San Antonio*	Purdue 33, Oklahoma State 20	Purdue (9-3), **#17** Oklahoma State (8-4), **#24**	The Boilermakers scored 20 points in the first 11 minutes of the third quarter to pick up their only bowl victory since the 1980 Liberty Bowl. Purdue QB Billy Dicken threw for 325 yards. OSU star tight end Alonzo Mayes missed the game because of a shoulder injury.
ALOHA			
Dec. 25, 1997 *at Honolulu*	Washington 51, Michigan State 23	Washington (8-4), **#21** Michigan State (7-5), **#25**	Washington's Rashaan Shehee rushed for an Aloha Bowl record 193 yards and two touchdowns. The Huskies added to the rout by picking off two Todd Schultz passes for touchdowns.
CARQUEST			
Dec. 29, 1997 *at Miami*	Georgia Tech 35 West Virginia 30	Georgia Tech (7-5), unranked West Virginia (7-5), unranked	Quarterback Joe Hamilton led Georgia Tech with 358 total yards, while Derrick Steagall had seven receptions for 112 yards. Tech improved to 18-8 in bowl games.
COTTON			
Jan. 1, 1998 *at Dallas*	UCLA 29, Texas A&M 23	UCLA (10-2), **#5** Texas A&M (9-4), **#20**	UCLA rallied from a 16-point first-half deficit, capped by a five-yard touchdown on a reverse by tight end Ryan Neufield with 7:05 left. The Bruins had started the season 0-2.
FIESTA			
Dec. 31, 1997 *at Tempe, Ariz.*	Kansas State 35, Syracuse 18	Kansas State (11-1), **#10** Syracuse (9-4), **#14**	Kansas State QB Michael Bishop threw four TD passes, including a 77-yard pass play to fellow junior college transfer Darnell McDonald, to help the Wildcats finish their best season ever on a strong note.
FLORIDA CITRUS			
Jan. 1, 1998 *at Orlando*	Florida 21, Penn State 6	Florida (10-2), **#6** Penn State (9-3), **#11**	Florida stopped Penn State twice on goal-line stands in the first half, while RB Fred Taylor hammered the Nittany Lions with a bowl-record 234 yards rushing. The Lions were without top receiver Joe Jurevicius (academics) and running back Curtis Enis (suspension).
GATOR			
Jan. 1, 1998 *at Jacksonville, Fla.*	North Carolina 42 Virginia Tech 3	North Carolina (11-1), **#7** Virginia Tech (7-5), unranked	Chris Keldorf made up for an injury that kept him out of the previous year's Gator Bowl by hitting 17 of 28 passes for 290 yards and three touchdowns. It was North Carolina's first bowl victory since 1980.
HERITAGE			
Dec. 27, 1997 *at Atlanta*	Southern 34, South Carolina State 28	Southern (11-1) South Carolina State (9-3)	S.C. State shot itself in the foot with 19 penalties for a total of 151 yards. A 98-yard kickoff return by Southern's Terrance Blackwell didn't help South Carolina State either.
HOLIDAY			
Dec. 29, 1997 *San Diego*	Colorado State 35, Missouri 24	Colorado State (11-2), **#18** Missouri (7-5), **#19**	Darran Hall scored on a 14-yard reverse on the Rams' first possession, then later brought in an 85-yard punt return to help Colorado State top its best season in school history.
INDEPENDENCE			
Dec. 28, 1997 *Shreveport, La.*	Louisiana State 27 Notre Dame 9	Louisiana State (9-3), **#15** Notre Dame (7-6), unranked	LSU scored 24 of its points in the second half for the easy win, while holding the Irish to 243 total yards. Notre Dame quarterback Ron Powlus had just 66 passing yards in what was the last game of a once-promising career. LSU backup tailback Rondell Mealey rushed for 222 yards and two TDs.
INSIGHT.COM			
Dec. 27, 1997 *at Tucson, Ariz.*	Arizona 20, New Mexico 14	Arizona (7-5), unranked New Mexico (9-4), unranked	Kelly Malveaux intercepted New Mexico's Graham Leigh with 4:34 left and took it 44 yards to seal a win for the host Wildcats. Arizona's Kelvin Eafon and Trung Canidate combined for 172 rushing yards.
LAS VEGAS			
Dec. 20, 1997, *at Las Vegas*	Oregon 41, Air Force 13	Oregon (7-5), unranked Air Force (10-3), unranked	The Ducks aired it out early and often, with Pat Johnson catching five passes for 169 yards, including TD receptions of 69 and 78 yards. Oregon backup QB Jason Maas had three TD passes, while Saladin McCullough rushed for 150 yards.
LIBERTY			
Dec. 31, 1997 *at Memphis, Tenn.*	Southern Mississippi 41, Pittsburgh 7	Southern Mississippi (9-3), **#22** Pittsburgh (6-6), unranked	Southern Miss scored three touchdowns on defense, while receiver Sherrod Gideon caught a bowl-record seven passes and scored another three TDs.
MOTOR CITY			
Dec. 26, 1997 *at Detroit*	Mississippi 34, Marshall 31	Mississippi (8-4), unranked Marshall (10-3), unranked	A frenetic fourth quarter capped this shootout, in which Marshall quarterback Chad Pennington and Mississippi counterpart Stewart Partridge combined for 669 passing yards.
ORANGE			
Jan. 2, 1998 *at Miami*	Nebraska 42, Tennessee 17	Nebraska (13-0), **#2** Tennessee (11-2), **#3**	The Cornhuskers used their usual crushing ground game to rush for 185 yards on 21 carries in the third quarter to put away the Peyton Manning's Volunteers, creating a wild retirement party for Nebraska coach Tom Osborne.

BOWL	RESULT	FINAL REGULAR SEASON AP RANKING	GAME HIGHLIGHTS
OUTBACK			
Jan. 1, 1998 *at Tampa, Fla.*	Georgia 33, Wisconsin 6	Georgia (10-2), **#12** Wisconsin (8-5), unranked	Georgia's Robert Edwards broke off a 40-yard touchdown run before five minutes were off the clock to set the tone. Bulldogs QB Mike Bobo completed 26 of 28 passes, including his final 19.
PEACH			
Jan. 2, 1998 *at Atlanta*	Auburn 21, Clemson 17	Auburn (10-3), **#13** Clemson (7-5), unranked	QB Dameyune Craig and Auburn finally woke up in the fourth quarter, with three scoring drives to take charge. Craig rushed in from 22 yards for the first of the three late scores.
ROSE			
Jan. 1, 1998 *at Pasadena, Calif.*	Michigan 21, Washington State 16	Michigan (12-0), **#1** Washington state (10-2), **#8**	Michigan's Charles Woodson made key plays on offense and defense, while the Wolverines killed off nearly all of the final 7:35 with four straight third-down conversions. Michigan held on to the top AP ranking, while Nebraska captured the coaches' poll.
SPORTS HUMANITARIAN			
Dec. 29, 1997 *Boise, Idaho*	Cincinnati 35, Utah State 19	Cincinnati (8-4), unranked Utah State (6-6), unranked	Bearcats junior Chad Plummer was a one-man show, catching passes totaling 64 yards, rushing for 53 and throwing for 62 yards. Freshman Deontey Kenner helped by sharing the quarterback duties.
SUGAR			
Jan. 1, 1998 *at New Orleans*	Florida State 31, Ohio State 14	Florida State (11-1), **#4** Ohio State (10-3), **#9**	The Seminoles scored two touchdowns in the final 3:25 of the first half to cement an easy victory. FSU's E.G. Green had seven receptions for 176 yards and a touchdown.
SUN			
Dec. 31, 1997 *at El Paso, Texas*	Arizona State 17, Iowa 7	Arizona State (9-3), **#16** Iowa (7-5)	Iowa rusher Tavian Banks, who averaged 149 yards per game, was held to 52 yards on 14 carries. Steve Campbell filled in capably for injured ASU starting QB Ryan Healy, throwing for a touchdown and 109 yards.

ALMANAC

1997 REGULAR SEASON

In the last year of the traditional Big Ten-Pac 10 Rose Bowl, there couldn't have been a better argument for change. Michigan and Nebraska both powered through perfect regular seasons, only to be kept from a postseason matchup to decide who was best. They wound up sharing the final polls, Michigan holding on to top the AP media poll and Nebraska winning the coaches' poll... Michigan had jumped over Nebraska to No. 1 in the AP poll with a stunning 34-8 rout of Penn State on Nov. 8 and Nebraska's near-loss to Missouri the same day; the Wolverines later survived dangerous Ohio State in the final regular-season game. No team, however, has ever been voted out of the AP poll's top spot when winning its bowl game, and that precedent did not change... **Peyton Manning** was a hero in Tennessee when he opted to stay for a final year of college ball, but he never did get the national title he hoped for nor a Heisman Trophy, which went to Michigan two-way star **Charles Woodson**. The Vols won their first Southeastern Conference title since 1990 with an uninspired 30-29 win over Auburn but carried an albatross into the Orange Bowl—their Sept. 20 loss to Florida, whom Manning never beat. However, Manning did put up 523 passing yards against Kentucky and four touchdown passes against Georgia. The Volunteers also held opponents to just 93.3 rushing yards per game... Michigan led the nation by allowing opposing quarterbacks just a 75.8 rating. Cornerbacks Woodson and **Andrew Weathers** led the attack. Woodson also served as a receiver and return man. His crowning moment may have been the regular-seasn finale against Ohio State, in which he made a 37-yard reception on a third-and-12 play, then ran back a punt return for a touchdown. Defensively, Woodson intercepted a **Stanley Jackson** pass in the third quarter to keep OSU down 13-0 in the third quarter... Florida lost its hold on the No. 1 spot with a 28-21 loss to LSU on Oct. 11... Nebraska cruised through the regular season thanks to effective option play by QB **Scott Frost**, while tailback **Ahman Green** was second nationally in rushing with an average of 156 yards per game. Fullback **Joel Makovicka** was another threat if Green received too much attention. The Cornhuskers crushed former rival Oklahoma 69-7 on Nov. 1 but trouble began a week later when they nearly ruined their title hopes at Missouri. Nebraska needed an end-zone interception of a deflected pass by **Matt Davison** to put the game into overtime, then an overtime touchdown by Frost to put down the Tigers 45-38 in one of the season's most thrilling games. Nebraska also had trouble beating Colorado 27-24... Nebraska coach **Tom Osborne**, who was replaced by assistant **Frank Solich**, wasn't the only legendary coach to say goodbye: Grambling's **Eddie Robinson** also stepped down after 588 games in 57 seasons. Grambling was just 3-8, finishing with a 30-7 loss to Southern, but Robinson still collected a total of 408 wins and put more than 200 players into the NFL... Florida State, meanwhile, jumped on top of the coaches' poll on Nov. 8 after a 20-3 win over previously unbeaten North Carolina, but fell out when it lost 32-29 to Florida on Nov. 22, leaving Michigan and Nebraska as lone title candidates. The Seminoles featured a strong passing attack, led by receiver **Peter Warrick**... Washington State rode **Ryan Leaf**'s arm for its first Rose Bowl appearance in 67 years. Leaf displayed both talent and leadership abilities, working with a corps of five solid receivers to create an offense that routinely befuddled opponents. **Michael Black** rushed for 1,157 yards to help keep defenses honest... UCLA's **Cade McNown** and Washington's **Brock Huard** also established themselves as top-level QBs out of the Pac-10... A couple of big seasons were spoiled in the final weeks: Penn State was embarrassed 49-14 by Michigan State and Arizona kicked Arizona State out of the Fiesta Bowl with a 28-16 upset victory... Penn State had taken the No. 1 ranking after a 31-27 defeat of Ohio State in October but faded in successive weeks... Colorado fizzed to just a 5-6 finish, much lower than expectations, with a lackluster running game... Marshall set a record for most wins by a team jumping to Division I-A, finishing 10-3 after a close loss to Mississippi in the Motor City Bowl. Wide Receiver **Randy Moss** scored 22 touchdowns, caught 83 passes for 1,477 yards and proved himself as possibly the best athlete in the college game, especially for his 6-5, 215-pound size. Marshall QB **Chad Pennington** was also a powerful offensive force, throwing for 3,158 yards... **John Robinson**'s reign at USC ended when athletic director **John Garrett** gave word of Robinson's dismissal via his answering machine... **Bobby Bowden**'s son, **Tommy**, led Tulane to a 7-4 mark in his first year as head coach... Michigan State had a productive, but roller-coaster season, winning its first five games before losing four straight, then beating Penn State and Illinois easily... New Mexico lost the Western Athletic Conference Championship game but reached its first bowl game since 1961. The the Lobos lost their coach, **Dennis Franchione**, to TCU... The WAC had all sorts of troubles. Early losses by BYU to Washington, and Colorado State to Colorado, didn't help after the league had lobbied for Alliance Bowl consideration. The 16-team league also increasingly showed the effects of its troubling geography and fragmented rivalries. The two participants in the WAC Championship game sold just 5,000 tickets combined. Not long after the season, eight of the best football schools left the league for good... Defensive-minded Colorado State whipped New Mexico in the WAC title game to go 10-2, proving the conference isn't all about passing... Texas running back **Ricky Williams** led the nation in rushing (172 yards per game), posting six 200-yard games, but couldn't help the Longhorns much in a disappointing season. The Longhorns lost 66-3 to UCLA in one particularly embarrassing outing... Quarterback **Michael Bishop** led Kansas State to a 10-1 record... Georgia Tech suffered a last-minute 27-24 loss to Georgia in the regular-season finale. In another classic rivalry, Auburn beat Alabama 18-17 after a late Alabama fumble eventually cost the Tide its two-point lead... Ole Miss reached the Motor City Bowl despite playing with just 61 scholarship players because of NCAA probation... Syracuse survived a 1-3 start—losses to North Carolina State, Oklahoma and Virginia Tech—to reach the Fiesta Bowl... UCLA rebounded from close early losses to Washington State and Tennessee, clobbering Washington 52-38, but didn't make it to an Alliance bowl... Southern

Methodist broke the .500 mark for the first time since its NCAA "death penalty" following the 1986 season, but the Mustangs lost 21-18 to previously winless TCU in the final regular-season game and didn't reach the WAC championship or a bowl... Notre Dame re-entered the bowl picture under **Bob Davie**, with an impressive 24-6 win at LSU, but still was a long way from normal... Linebacker **Anthony Simmons** helped Clemson hold Florida State to just 31 rushing yards in September, then had 18 tackles in an overtime defeat of Duke in November... Boston University, a longtime I-AA power, disbanded its program after the season ended because of high costs. Connecticut, meanwhile, opted to move up to I-A in the Big East, pending the availability of money for needed improvements... LSU lost tailback **Cecil "The Diesel" Collins** to a broken ankle against Vanderbilt on Oct. 3, but **Kevin Faulk** gradually improved from a pulled hamstring that bothered him earlier in the season.

AWARDS

Heisman Trophy: Charles Woodson, Michigan
Maxwell Award: Peyton Manning, Tennessee
Outland Trophy: Aaron Taylor, Nebraska
Lombardi Award: Grant Winstrom, Nebraska
O'Brien Award: Peyton Manning, Tennessee
Biletnikoff Award: Randy Moss, Marshall
Butkus Award: Andy Katzenmoyer, Ohio State
Thorpe Award: Charles Woodson, Michigan
Walker Award: Ricky Williams, Texas
Groza Award: Martin Gramatica, Kansas State

FINAL POLLS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
(first place votes in parenthesis)

Team	Points
1. Michigan (51.5) (12-0)	1,731.5
2. Nebraska (18.5) (13-0)	1,698.5
3. Florida State (11-1)	1,599
4. Florida (10-2)	1,455
5. UCLA (10-2)	1,413
6. North Carolina (11-1)	1,397
7. Tennessee (11-2)	1,320
8. Kansas State (11-1)	1,302
9. Washington State (10-2)	1,259
10. Georgia (10-2)	1,121
11. Auburn (10-3)	1,025
12. Ohio State (10-3)	975
13. LSU (9-3)	856
14. Arizona State (9-3)	773
15. Purdue (9-3)	715
16. Penn State (9-3)	706
17. Colorado State (11-2)	673
18. Washington (8-4)	617
19. Southern Mississippi (9-3)	490
20. Texas A&M (9-4)	421
21. Syracuse (9-4)	331
22. Mississippi (8-4)	255
23. Missouri (7-5)	175
24. Oklahoma State (8-4)	72
25. Georgia Tech (7-5)	64

Others receiving votes: Arizona 59, Oregon 50, Air Force 37, Marshall 33, Virginia 31, Clemson 27, Louisiana Tech 20, Mississippi State 15, Michigan State 9, Wisconsin 8, New Mexico 6, Cincinnati 5, Notre Dame 3, Iowa 2, Virginia Tech 1.

ESPN/USA TODAY
(first place votes in parenthesis)

Team	Points
1. Nebraska (32) (13-0)	1,520
2. Michigan (30) (12-0)	1,516
3. Florida State (11-1)	1,414
4. North Carolina (11-1)	1,292
5. UCLA (10-2)	1,239
6. Florida (10-2)	1,209
7. Kansas State (11-1)	1,192
8. Tennessee (11-2)	1,122
9. Washington State (10-2)	1,076
10. Georgia (10-2)	1,007
11. Auburn (10-3)	854
12. Ohio State (10-3)	826
13. LSU (9-3)	786
14. Arizona State (9-3)	667
15. Purdue (9-3)	666
16. Colorado State (11-2)	646
17. Penn State (9-3)	585
18. Washington (8-4)	512
19. Southern Mississippi (9-3)	462
20. Syracuse (9-4)	380
21. Texas A&M (9-4)	359
22. Mississippi (8-4)	188
23. Missouri (7-5)	114
24. Oklahoma State (8-4)	103
25. Air Force (10-3)	74

Others receiving votes: Clemson 58, Georgia Tech 55, Iowa 32, Louisiana Tech 31, Oregon 25, Cincinnati 24, Arizona 23, Mississippi State 20, Michigan State 16, New Mexico 13, Wisconsin 13, Tulane 10, Virginia 9, West Virginia 7, Marshall 4, Notre Dame 1.

TEAM STATISTICS

RUSHING OFFENSE

	CARRIES	YDS	YDSPG
1. Nebraska	755	4711	392.6
2. Rice	690	3660	332.7
3. Navy	618	3370	306.4
4. Ohio	649	3321	301.9
5. Army	670	3247	295.2
6. Missouri	592	2899	263.5
7. LSU	521	2823	256.6
8. Iowa	492	2585	235.0
9. Air Force	688	2791	232.6
10. Oklahoma State	592	2486	226.0
11. Akron	504	2431	221.0
12. Kansas State	541	2422	220.2
13. Colorado State	484	2631	219.3
14. Cincinnati	593	2371	215.5
15. Virginia Tech	548	2368	215.3
16. Penn State	448	2295	208.6
17. Miami (Ohio)	482	2285	207.7
18. Oklahoma	591	2491	207.6
19. New Mexico	541	2476	206.3
20. Texas A&M	492	2465	205.4

TOTAL OFFENSE

	PLAYS	YDS	YDSPG
1. Nebraska	937	6164	513.67
2. Washington State	808	5524	502.18
3. Louisiana Tech	813	5456	496.00
4. Tennessee	890	5794	482.83
5. Nevada	796	5272	479.27
6. Kentucky	876	5214	474.00
7. Purdue	794	5056	459.64
8. Florida State	784	4973	452.09
9. Utah State	835	4933	448.45
10. Marshall	832	5339	444.92
11. Miami (Ohio)	827	4876	443.27
12. Kent	815	4866	442.36
13. UCLA	741	4763	433.00
14. Georgia	758	4759	432.64
15. Syracuse	829	5127	427.25
16. Eastern Michigan	808	4687	426.09
17. Iowa	736	4658	423.45
18. Colorado State	761	5076	423.00
19. Penn State	736	4648	422.55
20. Florida	759	4634	421.27

SCORING OFFENSE

	GAMES	PTS	AVG
1. Nebraska	12	565	47.1
2. Washington State	11	467	42.5
3. UCLA	11	448	40.7
4. Florida State	11	437	39.7
5. Marshall	12	453	37.8
6. Miami (Ohio)	11	412	37.5
7. Florida	11	409	37.2
8. Colorado State	12	442	36.8
9. Iowa	11	404	36.7
10. Navy	11	398	36.2
11. Syracuse	12	423	35.3
12. Texas A&M	12	422	35.2
13. Kansas State	11	383	34.8
14. Tennessee	12	411	34.3
15. Tulane	11	375	34.1
16. Central Florida	11	374	34.0
17. Utah State	11	370	33.6
18. Washington	11	369	33.5
19. Missouri	11	368	33.5
20. Louisiana Tech	11	364	33.1

RUSHING DEFENSE

	CAR	YDS	YDSPG
1. Florida State	379	571	51.9
2. Florida	362	778	70.7
3. Nebraska	407	881	73.4
4. North Carolina	371	857	77.9
5. Cincinnati	338	930	84.5
6. Clemson	362	971	88.3
7. Michigan	368	1001	91.0
8. Tennessee	382	1119	93.3
9. Southern California	381	1032	93.8
10. Wake Forest	364	1057	96.1
11. Iowa	408	1161	105.5
12. Arizona	411	1164	105.8
13. Vanderbilt	415	1169	106.3
14. Southern Mississippi	367	1184	107.6
15. UCLA	380	1191	108.3
16. Syracuse	443	1317	109.8
17. Mississippi State	373	1216	110.5
18. Navy	404	1233	112.1
19. Arizona State	403	1241	112.8
20. Oklahoma State	369	1247	113.4

TOTAL DEFENSE

	PLAYS	YDS	YDSPG
1. Michigan	660	2276	206.9
2. North Carolina	693	2302	209.3
3. Florida State	717	2655	241.4
4. Kansas State	702	2825	256.8
5. Nebraska	717	3088	257.3
6. Navy	642	2863	260.3
7. Iowa	733	2927	266.1
8. Ohio State	820	3215	267.9
9. Vanderbilt	704	3026	275.1
10. Air Force	756	3471	289.3
11. Syracuse	769	3482	290.2
12. Florida	754	3195	290.5
13. Michigan State	716	3312	301.1
14. Oklahoma State	678	3330	302.7
15. Miami (Ohio)	745	3374	306.7
16. Clemson	721	3438	312.5
17. Utah	736	3440	312.7
18. Southern Mississippi	796	3462	314.7
19. Texas A&M	863	3781	315.1
20. Hawaii	820	3864	322.0

SCORING DEFENSE

	GAMES	PTS	AVG
1. Michigan	11	98	8.9
2. Ohio State	12	139	11.6
3. Air Force	12	149	12.4
4. Iowa	11	142	12.9
5. North Carolina	11	143	13.0
6. Kansas State	11	159	14.5
7. Colorado State	12	179	14.9
8. Florida State	11	167	15.2
9. Syracuse	12	191	15.9
10. Ohio	11	177	16.1
11. LSU	11	179	16.3
12. Nebraska	12	197	16.4
13. Virginia Tech	11	185	16.8
14. Michigan State	11	186	16.9
15. Georgia	11	189	17.2
16. Texas A&M	12	207	17.3
17. Wyoming	13	227	17.5
18. Clemson	11	198	18.0
19. Florida	11	199	18.1
20. Utah	11	200	18.2
20. Oklahoma State	11	200	18.2

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

	CAR	YDS	AVG	YDSPG
1. Ricky Williams, Texas	279	1893	6.8	172.09
2. Ahman Green, Nebraska	278	1877	6.8	156.42
3. Amos Zereoue, West Virginia	264	1505	5.7	150.50
4. Tavian Banks, Iowa	246	1639	6.7	149.00
5. Ron Dayne, Wisconsin	249	1421	5.7	142.10
6. Travis Prentice, Miami (Ohio)	296	1549	5.2	140.82
7. Dwayne Harris, Toledo	254	1278	5.0	127.80
8. Kevin Faulk, LSU	205	1144	5.6	127.11
9. Demond Parker, Oklahoma	194	1143	5.9	127.00
10. Chris McCoy, Navy	246	1370	5.6	124.55

PASSING EFFICIENCY RATING
(MIN. 15 ATT PER GAME)

	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	POINTS
1. Cade McNown, UCLA	283	173	2877	22	168.6
2. Ryan Leaf, Washington State	375	210	3637	33	161.2
3. Joe Germaine, Ohio State	184	119	1674	15	160.4
4. John Dutton, Nevada	367	225	3526	20	156.7
5. Brock Huard, Washington	244	146	2140	23	156.4
6. Mike Bobo, Georgia	306	199	2751	19	155.8
7. Donovan McNabb, Syracuse	265	145	2488	20	154.0
8. Graham Leigh, New Mexico	276	166	2318	24	153.6
9. Moses Moreno, Colorado State	257	157	2257	20	153.5
10. Chad Pennington, Marshall	428	253	3480	39	151.9

RECEPTIONS PER GAME

	G	CT	YDS	CTPG
1. Eugene Baker, Kent	11	103	1549	9.36
2. Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech	11	102	1707	9.27
3. Troy Walters, Stanford	11	86	1206	7.82
3. Geoff Noisy, Nevada	11	86	1184	7.82
5. Randy Moss, Marshall	12	90	1647	7.50
6. Siaha Burley, Central Florida	11	77	1106	7.00
6. Antonio Wilson, Idaho	11	77	910	7.00
8. Bobby Shaw, California	11	75	1093	6.82
9. Nakia Jenkins, Utah State	11	73	1086	6.64
9. Craig Yeast, Kentucky	11	73	873	6.64

RECEIVING YARDS PER GAME

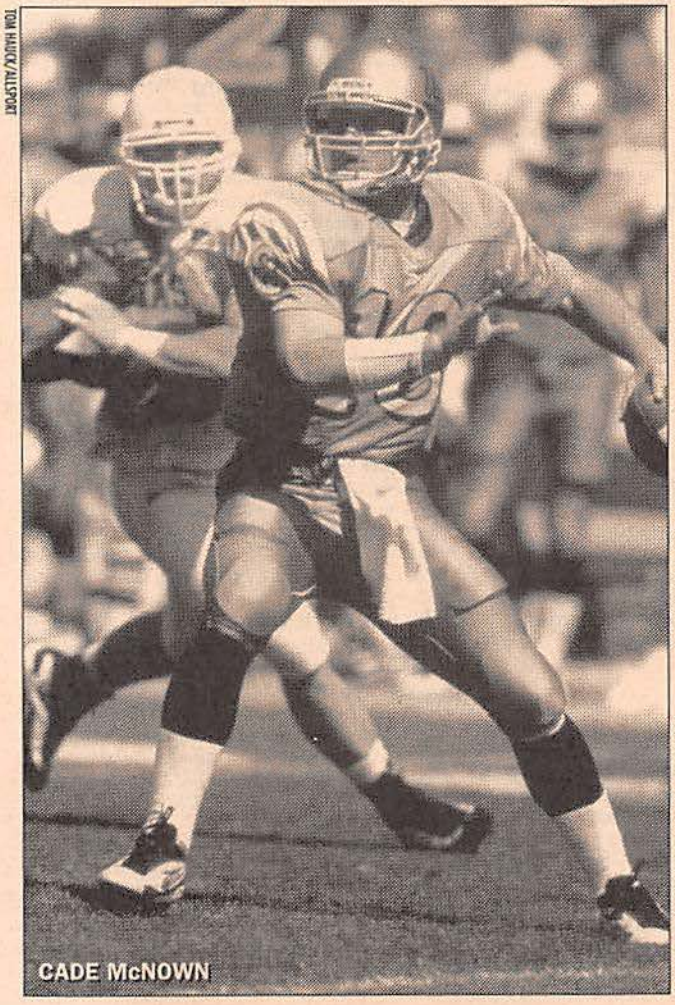
	G	CT	YDS	YDSPG
1. Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech	11	102	1707	155.18
2. Eugene Baker, Kent	11	103	1549	140.82
3. Randy Moss, Marshall	12	90	1647	137.25
4. Jerome Pathon, Washington	11	69	1245	113.18
5. Troy Walters, Stanford	11	86	1206	109.64
6. Geoff Noisy, Nevada	11	86	1184	107.64
7. Brian Alford, Purdue	11	59	1167	106.09
8. Trevor Insley, Nevada	11	59	1151	104.64
9. Pascal Volz, New Mexico	12	69	1229	102.42
10. Siaha Burley, Central Florida	11	77	1106	100.55

FIELD GOALS

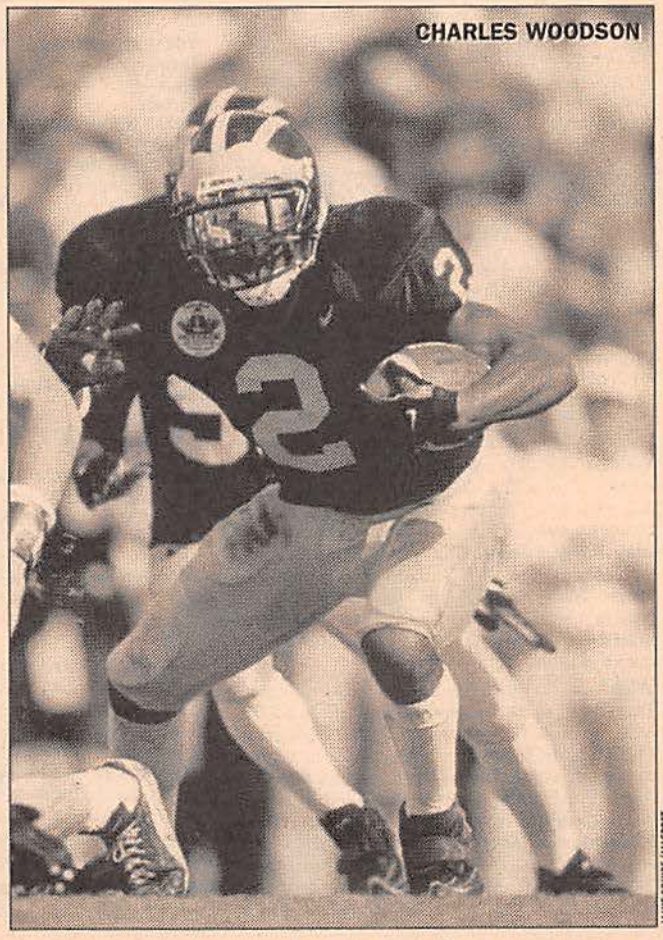
	FGA	FG	PCT	FGPG
1. Brad Palazzo, Tulane	28	23	.821	2.09
2. Colby Cason, New Mexico	30	21	.700	1.75
3. Martin Gramatica, Kansas State	20	19	.950	1.73
3. Shayne Graham, Virginia Tech	23	19	.826	1.73
3. Chris Sailer, UCLA	24	19	.792	1.73
6. Brian Gowins, Northwestern	27	20	.741	1.67
7. Kris Brown, Nebraska	21	18	.857	1.50
7. Kyle Bryant, Texas A&M	22	18	.818	1.50
9. Sims Lenhardt, Duke	20	16	.800	1.45
9. Sebastian Janikowski, Florida State	21	16	.762	1.45
9. Sebastian Villarreal, Houston	21	16	.762	1.45
9. Robert Nycz, Arizona State	23	16	.696	1.45
9. Brian Hazelwood, Mississippi State	26	16	.615	1.45

SCORING

	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PTPG
1. Ricky Williams, Texas	25	2	0	152	13.82
2. Skip Hicks, UCLA	25	0	0	150	13.64
2. Travis Prentice, Miami (Ohio)	25	0	0	150	13.64
4. Randy Moss, Marshall	25	2	0	152	12.67
5. Curtis Enis, Penn State	20	2	0	122	11.09
6. Ahman Green, Nebraska	22	0	0	132	11.00
7. Chris McCoy, Navy	20	0	0	120	10.91
8. Tavian Banks, Iowa	19	0	0	114	10.36
8. Chris Lemon, Nevada	19	0	0	114	10.36
10. Eugene Baker, Kent	18	2	0	110	10.00
10. Kevin Faulk, LSU	15	0	0	90	10.00


TOM HAUCK/ALLSPORT

CADE McNOWN


CHARLES WOODSON

JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT

1997-98 NFL POSTSEASON

SUPER BOWL XXXII

Denver 31, Green Bay 24

Jan. 25, 1998, at San Diego

Finally! **John Elway** finally got his ring. And the AFC finally ended years of domination by the NFC. After three previous attempts—and losses—Elway led the Broncos to the crown and his gutsy, diving, headfirst first down late in the game may have been the turning point. In what some called the greatest Super Bowl ever played, **Terrell Davis** rushed for more than 150 yards and three touchdown. Davis was named the game's most valuable player, and all this after he suffered a mindsplitting migraine headache in the first half. But the day belonged to No. 7, Elway, triumphant after all these years. Green Bay made a valiant run at preserving the NFC's 13-game win streak in the Super Bowl, but their hopes ended when **John Mobley** knocked down a Brett Favre pass on fourth down in the final 30 seconds.

SUPER BOWL XXXI BOXSCORE
Denver 31, Green Bay 24

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Green Bay	7	7	3	7	24
Denver	7	10	7	7	31

FIRST QUARTER
GB—Freeman 22 pass from Favre (Longwell kick)
DEN—Davis 1 run (Elam kick)
SECOND QUARTER
DEN—Elway 1 run (Elam kick)
DEN—Elam 51 FG
GB—Chmura 6 pass from Favre (Longwell kick)
THIRD QUARTER
GB—Longwell 27 FG
DEN—Davis 1 run (Elam kick)
FOURTH QUARTER
GB—Freeman 13 pass from Favre (Longwell kick)
DEN—Davis 1 run (Elam kick)

	GB	DEN
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	**21**	**21**
Rushing	4	14
Passing	14	5
Penalty	3	2
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	**5-14**	**5-10**
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	**0-1**	**0-0**
TOTAL NET YARDS	**350**	**302**
Total Offensive Plays	63	61
Average gain per offensive play	5.6	5.0
NET YARDS RUSHING	**95**	**179**
Total Rushing Plays	20	39
Average gain per rushing play	4.8	4.6
NET YARDS PASSING	**255**	**123**
ATT-COMP-INT	42-25-1	22-12-1
PUNTS (No.-Avg.)	4-35.5	4-36.5
PENALTIES (No.-Yds.)	9-59	7-65
FUMBLES (No.-Lost)	2-2	1-1
TIME OF POSSESSION	**27:35**	**32:25**

Rushing—Green Bay: Levens 19-90, Brooks 1-5. Denver: Davis 30-157, Elway 5-17, Hebron 3-3, Griffth 1-2.
Passing—Green Bay: Favre 42-25-1-327. Denver: Elway 22-12-0-123.
Receiving—Green Bay: Freeman 9-126, Levens 6-56, Chmura 4-43, Brooks 3-16, Henderson 2-6, Mickens 1-6. Denver: Sharpe 5-38, McCaffrey 2-45, Davis 2-8, Griffith 1-23, Hebron 1-5, Carswell 1-4.

ALMANAC

1997 Regular Season

WEEK 1: The question facing the Green Bay Packers as they opened the season aiming to defend their Super Bowl title: Could the defending champs stay hungry? Yes, if the season opener was any indication. The Pack blasted division rival Chicago, as **Brett Favre** tossed two TD passes... Jacksonville barely escaped the Ravens with a 28-27 victory... The **Bill Parcells** era got off to a rousing start in New York as the Jets absolutely blasted the Seahawks, 41-3... Parcells' old team, the Patriots, did OK too, beating the Chargers 41-10. Detroit opened with a win despite a slow start from **Barry Sanders** (15 carries for 33 yards). And the Tampa Bay Buccaneers stunned the 49ers. Not only did the Bucs win, but the Niners lost **Jerry Rice** and **Steve Young** to injuries. Rice would be lost for almost the entire season.

WEEK 2: So much for the Parcells era, right? The Jets lost to upstate rival Buffalo 28-22. And so much for the mighty Packers—Philadelphia beat Green Bay 10-9 in a low-scoring struggle. **Terrell Davis** rushed for more than 100 yards as Denver improved to 2-0 by beating division foe Seattle 35-14... **Brad Johnson** was 33-of-44 passing as Minnesota edged Chicago... Tampa Bay was a surprising 2-0 after shutting down **Barry Sanders** and beating the Lions by a touchdown. **Warrick Dunn** led the way for the Bucs, with 130 rushing yards. The Dolphins had to go to overtime to beat the Tennessee Oilers (boy, does that sound weird) by a field goal. **Dan Marino** passed for 324 yards in the win. Pittsburgh pulled out a 14-13 victory over the Redskins, and Jacksonville routed the Giants. Carolina won a yawner of a game over the Falcons, 9-6... The injury-plagued 49ers, with **Jim Druckenmiller** at quarterback, escaped St. Louis 15-12.

WEEK 3: You knew **Barry Sanders** couldn't be kept down for long. The man with the magic feet danced his way to 161 yards rushing and the Lions beat the Bears... **Steve Young** bounced right back from his concussion to lead the Niners in a 33-7 romp over **Danny Wuerffel**, **Heath Shuler** and the rest of **Mike Ditka**'s lowly Saints... In the Tuna Bowl, the Patriots took revenge on the Jets for stealing away coach **Bill Parcells**, but just barely. It took an **Adam Vinatieri** field goal in overtime to give New England the 27-24 victory. **Curtis Martin** had 199 yards rushing for the victors... **Terrell Davis**, ho-hum, had another 100-yard game and the Broncos won again, beating St. Louis 35-14... The Bucs continued their stunning start by knocking off **Brad Johnson** and the Vikings 28-14, behind another big game from young **Warrick Dunn**... Dallas struggled to beat the Eagles, but just managed to do so, 21-20.

WEEK 4: **Jerry Rice**? Who needs him? **J.J. Stokes**, **Terrell Owens** and **Iheanyi Uwaezouke** continued filling in quite nicely for the injured superstar, and San Francisco crushed Atlanta 34-7. **Steve Young** had 336 yards and two touchdowns in the game... **Terrell Davis** rushed for more than 200 yards in Denver's win over the Bengals... **Barry Sanders** had 100-plus yards on the ground, but **Mike Ditka**'s Saints beat the Lions as **Mario Bates** rushed for 162 yards for New Orleans... **Marty Schottenheimer**'s Chiefs picked off four **Kerry Collins** passes and beat the Panthers 35-14... Huge games from **Tim Brown** and **Napoleon Kaufman** weren't enough to keep the Raiders from losing to the **Neil O'Donnell**-led Jets. The Bills won a close one over **Marshall Faulk** and the Colts, who were rapidly on their way to a miserable season... The dull game of the week had to be St. Louis' 13-3 scrum against the Giants.

WEEK 5: San Francisco was on fire. This time it was the Panthers bowing before the revitalized **Steve Young** and Co., 34-21... **Dorsey Levens** and **Robert Brooks** led the Packers past the Lions on a day when **Brett Favre** threw three interceptions... Kansas City pulled out an overtime win against Seattle, and Denver rode **Shannon Sharpe** to another win. Sharpe had 119 yards receiving in the 29-21 victory against the Falcons... The Bears continued their woes, falling to Dallas 27-3 despite **Raymont Harris'** 190 yards rushing. ...The Redskins beat the Jaguars, and Minnesota knocked off the Eagles. **Adrian Murrell** led the Jets over the Bengals, who were off to their tradition pathetic start... In a battle of young quarterbacks, **Kordell Stewart** and the

Steelers topped **Steve McNair** and the Oilers.

WEEK 6: **Jerome Bettis** rushed for 137 yards on 28 carries and **Kordell Stewart** threw three touchdown passes as Pittsburgh rumbled to a 42-34 victory against the Ravens. **Vinny Testaverde** had three touchdown passes for Baltimore, but he also tossed three costly interceptions... Dallas lost to the Giants, and grumbling about **Barry Switzer** was in full effect in Texas ... **Kent Graham** almost led the Cardinals to an upset of the Vikings, but Arizona wound up on the short end of the 20-19 final score. **Brad Johnson** had two touchdown passes for the winners... Jacksonville bumped off Cincinnati 21-13, and the Jets beat the poor, injury-riddled Colts 16-12... In the battle of the Bays, **Warrick Dunn** rushed for 125 yards, but the magic carpet ride was over for the Bucs: The Packers, ever tough on Lambeau Field, grabbed the 21-16 win... The aged and ageless **Warren Moon** led Seattle past Tennessee, and Denver rolled past New England in a battle of AFC heavyweights.

WEEK 7: New England bounced right back from its loss to Denver. **Drew Bledsoe** had two touchdowns as the Patriots routed the Bills 33-6... **Jamal Anderson** carried Atlanta past New Orleans 23-17, and Washington knocked off Dallas. The Broncos didn't win this week—because they were off. Pittsburgh struggled but still beat the Colts 24-22... **Tyrone Wheatley** had a big game (103 yards rushing) as the Giants defeated the Cardinals... **Dan Marino** was looking as youthful as ever. He threw for 372 yards and two touchdowns as Miami whipped **Bill Parcells** and the Jets 31-20... And San Francisco hammered the Rams 30-10.

WEEK 8: Denver came off its bye week raring to go—and got beat. Yes, the Raiders, of all teams, held **Terrell Davis** under 100 yards and pulled off the 28-25 upset. **Jeff George** had a miserable game (96 yards passing), but managed two touchdown passes, and **Napoleon Kaufman** rushed for 227 yards in the stunner... Atlanta hung 28 points on the board but it wasn't enough as the Falcons lost to the mighty, mighty 49ers 35-28. **Garrison Hearst** went over 100 yards rushing for San Fran... Dallas knocked off Jacksonville 26-22, and Carolina shut out New Orleans 13-0. Buffalo scraped out a 9-6 win over the Colts... **Eddie George** carried the Oilers past the Redskins 28-14.

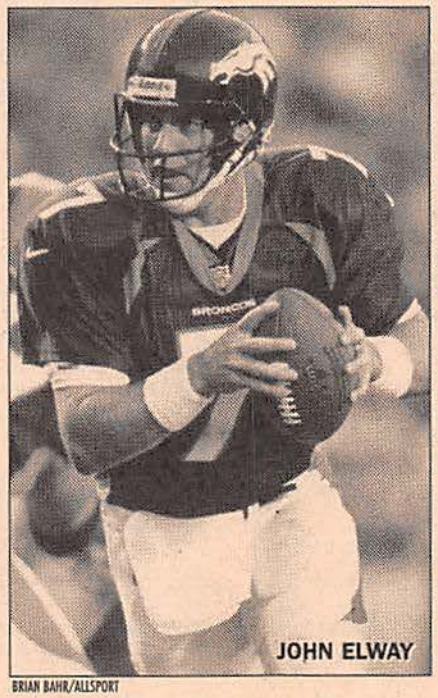
WEEK 9: This week was highlighted by three overtime games—Pittsburgh needed the extra frame to beat the Jaguars 23-17, Denver won by a field goal in OT against Buffalo, and in an fireworks-filled game, the Bears upset the Dolphins 36-33. **Jimmy Johnson**'s attempt to find a running game was failing woefully... **Bam Morris** rushed for 176 yards as the Ravens beat the Redskins... San Diego beat the Colts in the so-called **Peyton Manning** Bowl (as in, loser is headed for the first pick in the draft and the QB from Tennessee. Sure enough.)... San Francisco's defense continued to dominate, recording a shutout of the lowly Saints. **Mike Ditka** was getting frustrated... **Dorsey Levens** and **Brett Favre** turned their usual excellent games and the Packers rolled on, beating New England 28-10... The Vikings picked up a key win, beating division rival Tampa Bay 10-6.

WEEK 10: **Barry Sanders** had yet another 100-yard game—this was becoming routine for him—but it didn't help the Lions, who lost to Green Bay 20-10... **James Stewart** rushed for 99 yards and the Jaguars beat the Tennessee Oilers (still sounds weird), 30-24... In what once was a huge rivalry game for homefield advantage in the playoffs, **Steve Young** and **Garrison Hearst** led the 49ers past Dallas 17-10. How far the Cowboys had fallen. **Barry Switzer** was really hearing the wolves by this time... Miami's skid continued as the Dolphins fell to Buffalo 9-6... **Brad Johnson** had two TD passes and the Vikings beat New England... In a big AFC battle, **Elvis Grbac** and **Rich Gannon** did just enough to lead the Chiefs past the Steelers 13-10... This time it was **Mike Alstott** who led the way for Tampa Bay. The fullback from Purdue rushed for 45 yards on a day when **Warrick Dunn** mustered just 17 yards on the ground, and the Bucs beat the Colts 31-28.

WEEK 11: Denver blasted the pathetic Panthers 34-0, and **Shannon Sharpe** and **Terrell Davis** both had big games... The Vikings picked up an important division win, beating the Bears 29-21 even with running back **Robert Smith** injured... Indianapolis kept its lock on the top draft pick secure by falling to the Bengals 28-13. **Barry Sanders** rushed for 105 yards but the Lions lost (sound familiar?), this time 30-7 to **Gus Frerotte** and the Redskins. **Terry Allen** had 95 yards rushing for the 'Skins... Miami finally got some help from its running game. **Karim Abdul-Jabbar** rushed for 105 yards and the 'Phins beat **Bill Parcells** and the Jets 24-17. **Glenn Foley** did step up big for the Jets in the loss, with 322 yards passing... San Fran beat Philadelphia and former Niners assistant **Ray Rhodes** 24-12, and Jacksonville toppled the Chiefs 24-10.

WEEK 12: Kansas City got a huge, huge, *huge* win. The Chiefs beat rival Denver 24-22 in the victory that, as it turned out, sewed up the division crown for Kansas City. The Broncos would have to settle for a wild-card berth in the playoffs. San Francisco continued its domination of the NFC Least, bruising Carolina 27-19... The Colts jeopardized their top spot in the draft by pulling off an amazing upset—they beat the Packers! No, really, they did. **Paul Justin** passed for 340 yards, **Marshall Faulk** rushed for more than 100 yards and the Colts really, honestly beat the Packers, 41-38... Jacksonville beat Tennessee 17-9, Dallas escaped slumping Washington 17-14 and New Orleans went to overtime to beat **Warren Moon** and the Seahawks 20-17.

WEEK 13: Green Bay wasn't about to be caught napping again. The Packers went out and beat up the Cowboys, 45-17, making it pretty clear that Dallas' time was over and Green Bay was the team to beat in the NFC. Along with San Francisco, that is, who took the week off but still won, pulling out a 17-10 victory against lowly San Diego... The Bengals, as usual playing better once they'd dug a hole too deep to escape, beat the Jaguars 31-26 behind newly promoted **Boomer Esiason**... New England topped Miami 27-24 and the Jets beat the Vikings 23-21. And in a true rarity, the Redskins and Giants tied at 7-7 after neither offense could score in overtime... **Barry Sanders** went berserk on Thanksgiving, rushing for 214 yards as the Lions pounded the Colts 32-10.


JOHN ELWAY
BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT

WEEK 14: **Barry Sanders**, closing in on 2,000 yards, was a monster once more. He rushed for 167 yards as the Lions won again, blasting the Bears 55-20... Miami routed Oakland 34-16, Buffalo beat the Jets again, 20-10, and Jacksonville won another close game against Baltimore, 29-27... Denver got 178 yards on the ground from **Terrell Davis** and 240 yards through the air from **John Elway** to beat the Chargers 38-28... Pittsburgh needed overtime and 142 yards rushing from **Jerome Bettis** to beat the surging Falcons. And in what many thought could be a Super Bowl preview, the AFC's Kansas City piled it on, beating the NFC's San Francisco 44-9. **Rich Gannon** had three touchdown passes for the Chiefs... The Bucs beat the Giants 20-8, and Tennessee beat Dallas 27-14 in a matchup of former Texas rivals.

WEEK 15: Green Bay won the second battle of the Bays, too, beating the Bucs 17-6 on the arm of **Brett Favre**... Pittsburgh won a huge game against Denver, all but ending the Broncos' hopes of catching the Chiefs to regain homefield advantage. **Jerome Bettis** rushed for 125 yards and **Kordell Stewart** tossed three touchdown passes... New England got a key win against Jacksonville, and Kansas City smashed Oakland 30-0... **Barry Sanders** continued his march to 2,000 yards with 137 in a loss to the Dolphins... Chicago surprised Buffalo 20-3, and Baltimore beat Seattle 31-24 behind a big game from quarterback **Eric Zeier**... San Francisco beat the Vikings 28-17.

WEEK 16: Detroit upset the Vikings 14-13 as **Barry Sanders** rushed for 138 yards. **Robert Smith** had 101 yards for Minnesota in the losing cause... Denver, almost reeling now, lost again, this time falling to San Francisco 34-17... Pittsburgh was involved in yet another overtime game, beating the Patriots 24-21... Kansas City continued to cruised into the post-season, walloping the Chargers 29-7 with **Rich Gannon** at the helm... Green Bay pasted the Panthers 31-10, the Bucs lost to the Jets 31-0 and Atlanta continued hot, beating the Eagles 20-17... Indianapolis put a hurting on the Dolphins, 41-0, if you can believe it. **Jim Harbaugh** lit up the Miami defense for four touchdown passes, and **Ken Dilger** had 100 yards receiving... San Fran's **Jerry Rice** made his triumphant return from knee surgery and even caught a touchdown pass. But the celebration was short-lived as he landed on his knee in the end zone and broke his kneecap. He would miss the post-season.

WEEK 17: **Barry Sanders** did it. He rushed for 184 yards as the Lions beat the Jets, his 14th consecutive 100-yard game, putting him over the 2,000-yard threshold for the season. He became just the third player ever to attain the plateau... Denver went into the playoffs a winner, beating the Chargers 38-3 mostly with its second-stringers in the game... New England beat Miami 14-12, and Jacksonville beat Oakland 20-9... **Warrick Dunn** and the Bucs closed with a victory, 31-15 over the Bears. Dunn had 116 yards rushing as Tampa Bay finally managed a winning record... San Francisco's reserves fell to Seattle 38-9, and Green Bay's starters, for at least part of the game, beat Buffalo 31-21... Atlanta came up short against Arizona, and the Cowboys ended a disappointing season with a 20-7 loss to the Giants.

NFL STANDINGS

AFC

x-clinched division title; y-clinched wild card

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	Home	Road
x-New England	10	6	0	.625	369	289	6-2	4-4
y-Miami	9	7	0	.563	339	327	6-2	3-5
New York Jets	9	7	0	.563	348	287	5-3	4-4
Buffalo	6	10	0	.375	255	367	4-4	2-6
Indianapolis	3	13	0	.188	313	401	2-6	1-7

Central	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	Home	Road
x-Pittsburgh	11	5	0	.688	372	307	7-1	4-4
y-Jacksonville	11	5	0	.688	394	318	7-1	4-4
Tennessee	8	8	0	.500	333	310	6-2	2-6
Cincinnati	7	9	0	.438	355	405	6-2	1-7
Baltimore	6	9	1	.406	325	345	3-4-1	3-5

West	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	Home	Road
x-Kansas City	13	3	0	.813	375	232	8-0	5-3
y-Denver	12	4	0	.750	472	287	8-0	4-4
Seattle	8	8	0	.500	365	362	4-4	4-4
Oakland	4	12	0	.250	324	419	2-6	2-6
San Diego	4	12	0	.250	266	425	2-6	2-6

NFC

x-clinched division title; y-clinched wild card

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	Home	Road
x-New York Giants	10	5	1	.656	307	265	6-2	4-3-1
Washington	8	7	1	.531	327	289	5-2-1	3-5
Philadelphia	6	9	1	.406	317	372	6-2	0-7-1
Dallas	6	10	0	.375	304	314	5-3	1-7
Arizona	4	12	0	.250	283	379	3-5	1-7

Central	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	Home	Road
x-Green Bay	13	3	0	.813	422	282	8-0	5-3
y-Tampa Bay	10	6	0	.625	299	263	5-3	5-3
y-Detroit	9	7	0	.563	379	306	6-2	3-5
y-Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	354	359	5-3	4-4
Chicago	4	12	0	.250	263	421	2-6	2-6

West	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	Home	Road
x-San Francisco	13	3	0	.813	375	265	8-0	5-3
Atlanta	7	9	0	.438	320	361	3-5	4-4
Carolina	7	9	0	.438	265	314	2-6	5-3
New Orleans	6	10	0	.375	237	327	3-5	3-5
St. Louis	5	11	0	.313	299	359	2-6	3-5

1998 NFL DRAFT TEAM-BY-TEAM

Arizona 1. Andre Wadsworth, de, Florida State (3); 2. Corey Chavous, db, Vanderbilt (33); 2. Anthony Clement, ot, SW Louisana (36); 4. Michael Pittman, rb, Fresno St. (95); 5. Terry Hardy, te, Southern Mississippi (125); 6. Zack Walz, lb, Dartmouth (158); 7. Phil Savoy, wr, Colorado (193); 7. George Cousins, de, Florida A&M (209); 7. Pat Tillman, db, Arizona State (226); 7. Ron Janes, rb, Missouri (233).

Atlanta 1. Keith Brooking, lb, Georgia Tech (12); 2. Bob Hallen, c, Kent (53); 3. Jammi German, wr, Miami (74); 4. Omar Brown, db, North Carolina (103); 4. Tim Dwight, wr-kr, Iowa (114); 6. Elijah Williams, db, Florida (166); 7. Ephraim Salaam, ot, San Diego State(199); 7. Ken Oxendine, rb, Virginia Tech (201); 7. Henry Slay, dt, West Virginia (203).

Baltimore 1. Duane Starks, db, Miami (10); 2. Pat Johnson, wr, Oregon (42); 5. Martin Chase, dt, Oklahoma (124), 5. Ryan Sutter, db, Colorado (133); 6. Ron Rogers, lb, Georgia Tech (154); Sammy Williams, ot, Oklahoma (164); 7. Cam Quayle, te, Weber St. (241).

Buffalo 2. Sam Cowart, lb, Florida State (39); 3. Robert Hicks, ot, Mississippi State (68); 5. Jonathan Linton, rb, North Carolina (131); 6. Fred Coleman, wr, Washington (160); 7. Victor Allotey, g, Indiana (198); 7. Kamil Loud, wr, Cal Poly-SLO (238).

Carolina 1. Jason Peter, dt, Nebraska (14); 3. Chuck Wiley, de, LSU (62); 3. Mitch Marrow, de, Penn (73); 4. Donald Hayes, wr, Wisconsin (106); 5. Jerry Jensen, lb, Washington (136); 6. Damien Richardson, db, Arizona St. (165); 7. viliami Maumau, dt, Colorado (196); 7. Jim Turner, wr, Syracuse (228).

Chicago 1. Curtis Enis, rb, Penn State (5); 2. Tony Parrish, db, Washington (35); 3. Olin Kreutz, c, Washington (64); 4. Alonzo Mayes, te, Oklahoma St. (94); 6. Chris Draft, lb, Stanford (157); 6. Patrick Mannelly, ot, Duke (189); 7. Chad Overhauser, ot, UCLA (217); 7. Moses Moreno, qb, Colorado St. (232).

Cincinnati 1. Takeo Spikes, lb, Auburn (13); 1. Brian Simmons, lb, North Carolina (17); 2. Artrell Hawkins, db, Cincinnati (43); 3. Steve Foley, lb, NE Louisiana (75); 3. Mike Goff, g, Iowa (78); 4. Glenn Steele, de, Michigan (105); 6. Jason Tucker, wr, Texas Christian (167); 7. Marcus Parker, rb, Virginia Tech (202); Damian Vaughn, te, Miami, Ohio (222).

Dallas 1. Greg Ellis, de, North Carolina (8); 2. Flozell Adams, ot, Michigan State (38); 4. Michael Myers, dt, Alabama (100); 5. Darren Hambrick, lb, South Carolina (130); 5. Oliver Ross, ot, Iowa State (138); 6. Izell Reese, db, Alabama-Birmingham (188); 7. Tarik Smith, rb, California (223), 7. Antonio Fleming, g, Georgia (227), 7. Rodrick Monroe, te, Cincinnati (237).

Denver 1. Marcus Nash, wr, Tennessee (30); 2. Eric Brown, s, Mississippi State (61); 3. Brian Griese, qb, Michigan (91); 4. Curtis Alexander, rb, Alabama (122); 5. Chris Howard, rb, Michigan (153); 7. Trev Teaque, ot, Tennessee (200); 7. Nate Wayne, lb, Mississippi (219).

Detroit 1. Terry Fair, db, Tennessee (20); 2. Germane Crowell, wr, Virginia (50); 2. Charlie Batch, qb, Eastern Michigan (60); 6. Jamaal Alexander, db, Southern Mississippi (185); 7. Chris Liwienski, ot, Indiana (207).

Green Bay 1. Vonnie Holliday, dt, North Carolina (19), 3. Jonathan Brown, de, Tennessee (90); 4. Roosevelt Blackmon, db, Morris Brown (121); 5. Corey Bradford, wr, Jackson State (150); 6. Scott McGarrahan, db, New Mexico (156); 6. Matt Hasselbeck, qb, Boston College (187); 7. Ed Watson, rb, Purdue (218).

Indianapolis 1. Peyton Manning, qb, Tennessee (1); 2. Jerome Pathon, wr, Washington (32); 3. E.G. Green, wr, Florida State (71); 4. Steve McKinney, g, Texas A&M (93); 5. Anthony Jordon, lb, Vanderbilt (135); 7. Aaron Taylor, g, Nebraska (190); 7. Corey Gaines, db, Tennessee (231).

Jacksonville 1. Fred Taylor, rb, Florida (9); 1. Donovin Darius, db, Syracuse (25); 2. Cordell Taylor, db, Hampton (57); 3. Jonathan Quinn, qb, Middle Tennessee State (86); 4. Tavian Banks, rb, Iowa (101); 4. Harry Deligianis, dt, Youngston State (118); 5. John Wade, c, Marshall (148); 6. lemanzer Williams, de, Minnesota (179); 6. Kevin McLeod, rb, Auburn (182); 7. Alvis Whitted, wr, North Carolina State (192); 7. Brandon Tolbert, lb, Georgia (214).

Kansas City 1. Victor Riley, ot, Auburn (27); 3. Rashaan Shehee, rb, Washington (88); 4. Greg Favors, lb, Mississippi State (120); 5. Robert Williams, db, North Carolina (128); 6. Derrick Ransom, dt, Cincinnati (181); 7. Eric Warfield, db, Nebraska (216); 7. Ernest Blackwell, rb, Missouri (224).

Miami 1. John Avery, rb, Mississippi (29); 2. Patrick Surtain, db, Southern Mississippi (44); 2. Kenny Mixon, de, LSU (49); 3. Brad Jackson, lb, Cincinnati (79); 3. Larry Shannon, wr, East Carolina (82); 4. Lorenzo Bromell, de, Clemson (102); 5. Scott Shaw, g, Michigan State (143); 6. Nathan Strikwerda, c, Northwestern (171); 6. John Dutton, qb, Nevada (172); 7. Jim Burden, g, Clemson (210).

Minnesota 1. Randy Moss, wr, Marshall (21); 2. Kailee Wong, lb, Stanford (51); 3. Ramos McDonald, db, New Mexico (80); 4. Kivuusama Mayes, lb, North Carolina (110); 5. Kerry Cooks, db, Iowa (144); 6. Matt Birk, ot, Harvard (173); 7. Chester Burnett, lb, Arizona (208); 7. Tony Darden, db, Texas Tech (225).

New England 1. Robert Edwards, rb, Georgia (18); 1. Tebucky Jones, db, Syracuse (22); 2. Tony Simmons, wr, Wisconsin (52); 2. Rod Rutledge, te, Alabama (54), 3. Chris Floyd, rb, Michigan (81); 3. Greg Spires, de, Florida State (83); 4. Leonta Rheams, dt, Houston (115); 5. Ron Merkerson, lb, Colorado (145); 6. Harold Shaw, rb, Southern Mississippi (176); 7. Jason Andersen, c, Brigham Young (211).

New Orleans 1. Kyle Turley, ot, San Diego State (7); 2. Cameron Cleeland, te, Washington (40); 4. Fred Weary, db, Florida (97); 4. Julian Pittman, de, Florida State (99); 5. Wilmont Perry, rb, Livingstone (132); 6. Chris Bordano, lb, Southern Methodist (161); 7. Andy McCullough, wr, Tennessee (204); 7. Ron Warner, lb, Kansas (239).

New York Giants 1. Shaun Williams, db, UCLA (24); 2. Joe Jurevicius, wr, Penn State (55); 3. Brian Alford, wr, Purdue (70); 5. Toby Myles, ot, Jackson State (147); 6. Todd Pollack, te, Boston College (177); 7. Ben Fricke, c, Houston (213).

New York Jets 2. Dorian Boose, de, Washington State (56); 3. Scott Frost, db, Nebraska (67); 3. Kevin Williams, db, Oklahoma State (87); 4. Jason Fabini, ot, Cincinnati (111); 5. Casey Dailey, lb, Northwestern (134); 5. Doug Karczewski, g, Virginia (141); 5. Blake Spence, te, Oregon (146); 5. Eric Bateman, g, Brigham Young (149); 6. Eric Ogbogu, de, Maryland (163); 6. Chris Brazzell, wr, Angelo State (174); 6. Dustin Johnson, rb, Brigham Young (183); 7. Lawrence Hart, te, Southern U. (195).

Oakland 1. Charles Woodson, db, Michigan (4); 1. Mo Collins, ot, Florida (23); 2. Leon Bender, dt, Washington State (31); 3. Jon Ritchie, rb, Stanford (63); 4. Gennaro DiNapoli, g, Virginia Tech (109); 5. Jeremy Brigham, te, Washington (127); 5. Travian Smith, lb, Oklahoma (152); 7. Vince Amey, de, Arizona State (230); 7. David Sanders, de, Arkansas (235).

Philadelphia 1. Tra Thomas, ot, Florida State (11); 3. Jeremiah Trotter, lb, Stephen F. Austin (72); 3. Allen Rossum, db, Notre Dame (85); 4. Brian Whiting, dt, California (112); 4. Clarence Love, db, Toledo (116); 5. Ike Reese, lb, Michigan State (142); 7. Chris Atkins, dt, Texas (220); 7. Melvin Thomas, g, Colorado (240).

Pittsburgh 1. Alan Faneca, g, LSU (26); 2. Jeremy Staat, dt, Arizona State (41); 3. Chris Conrad, ot, Fresno State (66); 3. Hines Ward, wr, Georgia (92); 4. Deshea Townsend, db, Alabama (117); 4. Carlos King, fb, North Carolina State (123); 5. Jason Simmons, db, Arizona State (137); 6. Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala, rb, Utah (178); 6. Ryan Olson, lb, Colorado (186); 7. Angel Rubio, de, Southeast Missouri State (221).

St. Louis 1. Grant Wistrom, de, Nebraska (6); 2. Robert Holcombe, rb, Illinois (37); 3. Leonard Little, lb, Tennessee (65); 4. Az-Zahir Hakim, wr, San Diego State (96); 4. Ronald Williams, te, Syracuse (97); 5. Raymond Priester, rb, Clemson (129); 6. Glenn Roundtree, g, Clemson (159); 7. Jason Chorak, de, Washington (236).

San Diego 1. Ryan Leaf, qb, Washington State (2); 2. Mikhael Ricks, wr, Stephen F. Austin (59); 5. Cedric Harden, de, Florida A&M (126); 6. Clifford Ivory, db, Troy State (155); 7. Jon Haskins, lb, Stanford (194); 7. Kio Sanford, wr, Kentucky (234).

San Francisco 1. R.W. McQuarters, db, Oklahoma State (28); 2. Jeremy Newberry, c, California (58); 3. Chris Rhuman, ot, Texas A&M (89); 4. Lance Schulters, db, Hofstra (119); 5. Phil Ostrowski, g, Penn State (151); 6. Fred Beasley, rb, Auburn (180); 7. Ryan Thelwell, wr, Minnesota (215).

Seattle 1. Anthony Simmons, lb, Clemson (15); 2. Todd Weiner, ot, Kansas State (47); 3. Ahman Green, rb, Nebraska (76); 3. DeShon Myles, lb, Nevada (108); 6. Carl Hansen, de, Stanford (162); 6. Bobby Shaw, wr, California (169); 7. Jason McEndoo, c, Washington State (197).

Tampa Bay 2. Jacquez Green, wr, Florida (34); 2. Brian Kelly, db, Southern California (45); 3. Jamie Duncan, lb, Vanderbilt (84); 4. Todd Washington, g, Virginia Tech (104); 6. James Cannida, dt, Nevada (175); 6. Shevin Smith, db, Florida State (184); 7. Chance McCarty, de, Texas Christian (212).

Tennessee 1. Kevin Dyson, wr, Utah (16); 2. Samari Rolle, db, Florida State (46); 3. Dainon Sydney, db, Alabama-Birmingham (77); 4. Joe Salave'a, dt, Arizona (107); 5. Benji Olson, g, Washington (139); 6. Lee Wiggins, db, South Carolina (168); 7. Jimmy Sprotte, lb, Arizona (205); 7. Kevin Long, c, Florida State (229).

Washington 2. Stephen Alexander, te, Oklahoma (48); 3. Skip Hicks, rb, UCLA (69); 4. Shawn Barber, lb, Richmond (113); 5. Mark Fischer, c, Purdue (140); 6. Pat Palmer, wr, NW Louisiana (170); 7. David Terrell, db, Texas-El Paso (191); 7. Antwaune Ponds, lb, Syracuse (206).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NFC passing

Player, Team	Att	Comp	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	Rating
Young, San Francisco	356	241	67.7	3029	19	6	104.7
Chandler, Atlanta	342	202	59.1	2692	20	7	95.1
Favre, Green Bay	513	304	59.3	3867	35	16	92.6
Johnson, Minnesota	452	275	60.8	3036	20	12	84.5
Hoying, Philadelphia	225	128	56.9	1573	11	6	83.8
Dilfer, Tampa Bay	386	217	56.2	2555	21	11	82.8
Mitchell, Detroit	509	293	57.6	3484	19	14	79.6
Aikman, Dallas	518	292	56.4	3283	19	12	78.0
Kramer, Chicago	477	275	57.7	3011	14	14	74.0
Detmer, Philadelphia	244	134	54.9	1567	7	6	73.9
Frerotte, Washington	402	204	50.7	2682	17	12	73.8
Plummer, Arizona	296	157	53.0	2203	15	15	73.1
Banks, St. Louis	487	252	51.7	3254	14	13	71.5
Kanell, N.Y. Giants	294	156	53.1	1740	11	9	70.7
Graham, Arizona	250	130	52.0	1408	4	5	65.9

AFC passing

Player, Team	Att	Comp	Pct	Yds	TD	Int	Rating
Brunell, Jacksonville	435	264	60.7	3281	18	7	91.2
George, Oakland	521	290	55.7	3917	29	9	91.2
Bledsoe, New England	522	314	60.2	3706	28	15	87.7
Elway, Denver	502	280	55.8	3635	27	11	87.5
Harbaugh, Indianapolis	309	189	61.2	2060	10	4	86.2
Moon, Seattle	528	313	59.3	3678	25	16	83.7
Marino, Miami	548	319	58.2	3780	16	11	80.7
O'Donnell, N.Y. Jets	460	259	56.3	2796	17	7	80.3
Grbac, Kansas City	314	179	57.0	1943	11	6	79.1
Blake, Cincinnati	317	184	58.0	2125	8	7	77.6
Testaverde, Baltimore	470	271	57.7	2971	18	15	75.9
Stewart, Pittsburgh	440	236	53.6	3020	21	17	75.2
Humphries, San Diego	225	121	53.8	1488	5	6	70.8
McNair, Tennessee	415	216	52.0	2665	14	13	70.4
Collins, Buffalo	391	215	55.0	2367	12	13	69.5

NFC receiving

Player, Team	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
H. Moore, Detroit	104	1293	12.4	79	8
R. Moore, Arizona	97	1584	16.3	47t	8
Carter, Minnesota	89	1069	12.0	43	13
Fryar, Philadelphia	86	1316	15.3	72t	6
Freeman, Green Bay	81	1243	15.3	58t	12
Morton, Detroit	80	1057	13.2	73t	6
Irvin, Dallas	75	1180	15.7	55	9
Sanders, Arizona	75	1017	13.6	70t	4
Reed, Minnesota	68	1138	16.7	56	6
Emanuel, Atlanta	65	991	15.2	56	9
Mathis, Atlanta	62	802	12.9	49	6
Lee, St. Louis	61	825	13.5	62	3
R. Brooks, Green Bay	60	1010	16.8	48	7
Owens, San Francisco	60	936	15.6	56t	8
Calloway, N.Y. Giants	58	849	14.8	68t	8
Proehl, Chicago	58	753	13.0	78t	7
Walls, Carolina	58	746	12.9	52	6
Stokes, San Francisco	58	733	12.6	36	4
Bruce, St. Louis	56	815	14.9	59	5
Hill, New Orleans	55	761	13.8	89t	2
Centers, Arizona	54	409	7.6	29	1
Levens, Green Bay	53	370	7.0	56	5
Asher, Washington	49	474	9.7	24	1
Hastings, New Orleans	48	722	15.0	39	5
Turner, Philadelphia	48	443	9.2	36	3
Watters, Philadelphia	49	440	9.2	37	0
Penn, Chicago	47	576	12.3	33	3
Bjornson, Dallas	47	442	9.4	32	0
Miller, Dallas	46	645	14.0	54	4
Wetnight, Chicago	46	464	10.1	34	1
Engram, Chicago	45	399	8.9	23	2
Carruth, Carolina	44	545	12.4	52	4
Timpson, Philadelphia	42	484	11.5	26	2
W. Henderson, G.B.	41	367	9.0	25	1

AFC receiving

Player, Team	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
T. Brown, Oakland	104	1408	13.5	59t	5
McCardell, Jacksonville	85	1164	13.7	60	5
J. Smith, Jacksonville	82	1324	16.1	75	4
Thigpen, Pittsburgh	79	1398	17.7	69t	7
McDuffie, Miami	76	943	12.4	55	1
Harrison, Indianapolis	73	866	11.9	44	6
Sharpe, Denver	72	1107	15.4	68t	3
Rison, Kansas City	82	1092	15.2	45	7
Galloway, Seattle	72	1049	14.6	53t	12
R. Smith, Denver	70	1180	16.9	78	12
K. Johnson, N.Y. Jets	70	963	13.9	39	5
Jackson, Baltimore	69	918	13.3	54t	4
Dawkins, Indianapolis	68	804	11.8	51	2
Coates, New England	66	737	11.2	35	8
Alexander, Baltimore	65	1009	15.5	92	9
Green, Baltimore	65	601	9.2	37t	5
Pritchard, Seattle	64	843	13.2	61	2
Martin, San Diego	63	904	14.3	72t	6
Wycheck, Tennessee	63	748	11.9	42	4
Reed, Buffalo	60	880	14.7	77t	5
Early, Buffalo	60	853	14.2	45	5
Anders, Kansas City	59	453	7.7	55t	2
Chrbet, N.Y. Jets	58	779	13.8	70	3
Jefferson, New England	54	841	15.6	76	2
Scott, Cincinnati	54	797	14.8	77t	5
Pickens, Cincinnati	52	695	13.4	50t	5
Dudley, Oakland	48	787	16.4	76	7
Faulk, Indianapolis	47	471	10.0	58	1
Jett, Oakland	46	804	17.5	56t	12
C. Johnson, Pittsburgh	46	568	12.3	49	2
McCaffrey, Denver	45	590	13.1	35	8
Hawkins, Pittsburgh	45	555	12.3	44t	3
Warren, Seattle	45	257	5.7	20	0
W. Davis, Tennessee	43	564	13.1	46	4

NFC rushing

Player, Team	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Sanders, Detroit	335	2053	6.1	82t	11
Levens, Green Bay	329	1435	4.4	52t	7
R. Smith, Minnesota	232	1266	5.5	78t	6
Watters, Philadelphia	285	1110	3.9	28	7
E. Smith, Dallas	261	1074	4.1	44	4
R. Harris, Chicago	275	1033	3.8	68t	10
Hearst, San Francisco	234	1019	4.4	51	4
Anderson, Atlanta	290	1002	3.5	39	7
Dunn, Tampa Bay	224	978	4.4	76	4
Lane, Carolina	182	809	4.4	50	7
Allen, Washington	210	724	3.4	34	4
Way, N.Y. Giants	151	698	4.6	42	4
Alstott, Tampa Bay	176	665	3.8	38	7
Wheatley, N.Y. Giants	152	583	3.8	38	4
Davis, Washington	141	567	4.0	18	3
Zellars, New Orleans	156	552	3.5	27	4
Garner, Philadelphia	116	547	4.7	26	3
Barber, N.Y. Giants	136	511	3.8	42	3
Sh. Williams, Dallas	121	468	3.9	18	2
Bates, New Orleans	119	440	3.7	74t	4

AFC rushing

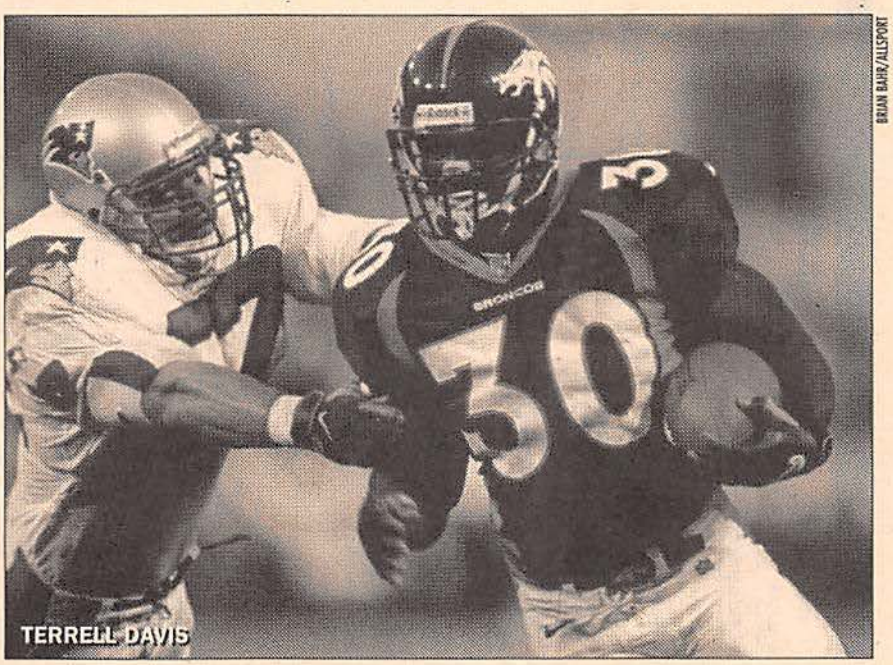
Player, Team	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Davis, Denver	369	1750	4.7	50t	15
Bettis, Pittsburgh	376	1665	4.4	34	7
E. George, Tennessee	357	1399	3.9	30	6
Kaufman, Oakland	272	1294	4.8	83t	6
Martin, New England	274	1160	4.2	70t	4
Dillon, Cincinnati	233	1129	4.8	71t	10
Murrell, N.Y. Jets	300	1086	3.6	43t	7
Faulk, Indianapolis	264	1054	4.0	45	7
Brown, San Diego	253	945	3.7	32	4
Abdul-Jabbar, Miami	283	892	3.2	22	15
Warren, Seattle	200	847	4.2	36t	4
A. Smith, Buffalo	194	840	4.3	56t	8
Means, Jacksonville	244	823	3.4	20	9
Morris, Baltimore	204	774	3.8	25	4
Phillips, St.L.-Miami	201	677	3.4	28	8
McNair, Tennessee	101	674	6.7	47	8
Thomas, Buffalo	154	643	4.2	24	1
Stewart, Jacksonville	136	555	4.1	33	8
Hill, Kansas City	157	550	3.5	38	0
Allen, Kansas City	124	505	4.1	30	11

NFC kicking

Player, Team	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	Pts
Cunningham, Dallas	24	24	34	37	126
Anderson, San Francisco	38	38	29	36	125
Longwell, Green Bay	48	48	24	30	120
Hanson, Detroit	39	40	26	29	117
Wilkins, St. Louis	32	32	25	37	107
Andersen, Atlanta	35	35	23	27	104
Boniol, Philadelphia	33	33	22	31	99
Daluiso, N.Y. Giants	27	29	22	32	93
Brien, New Orleans	22	22	23	27	91
Kasay, Carolina	25	25	22	26	91
Jaeger, Chicago	20	20	21	26	83
Blanton, Washington	34	34	16	24	82
Husted, Tampa Bay	32	35	13	17	71
Murray, Minnesota	23	24	12	17	59
Nedney, Minn.-Arizona	19	19	11	17	52

AFC kicking

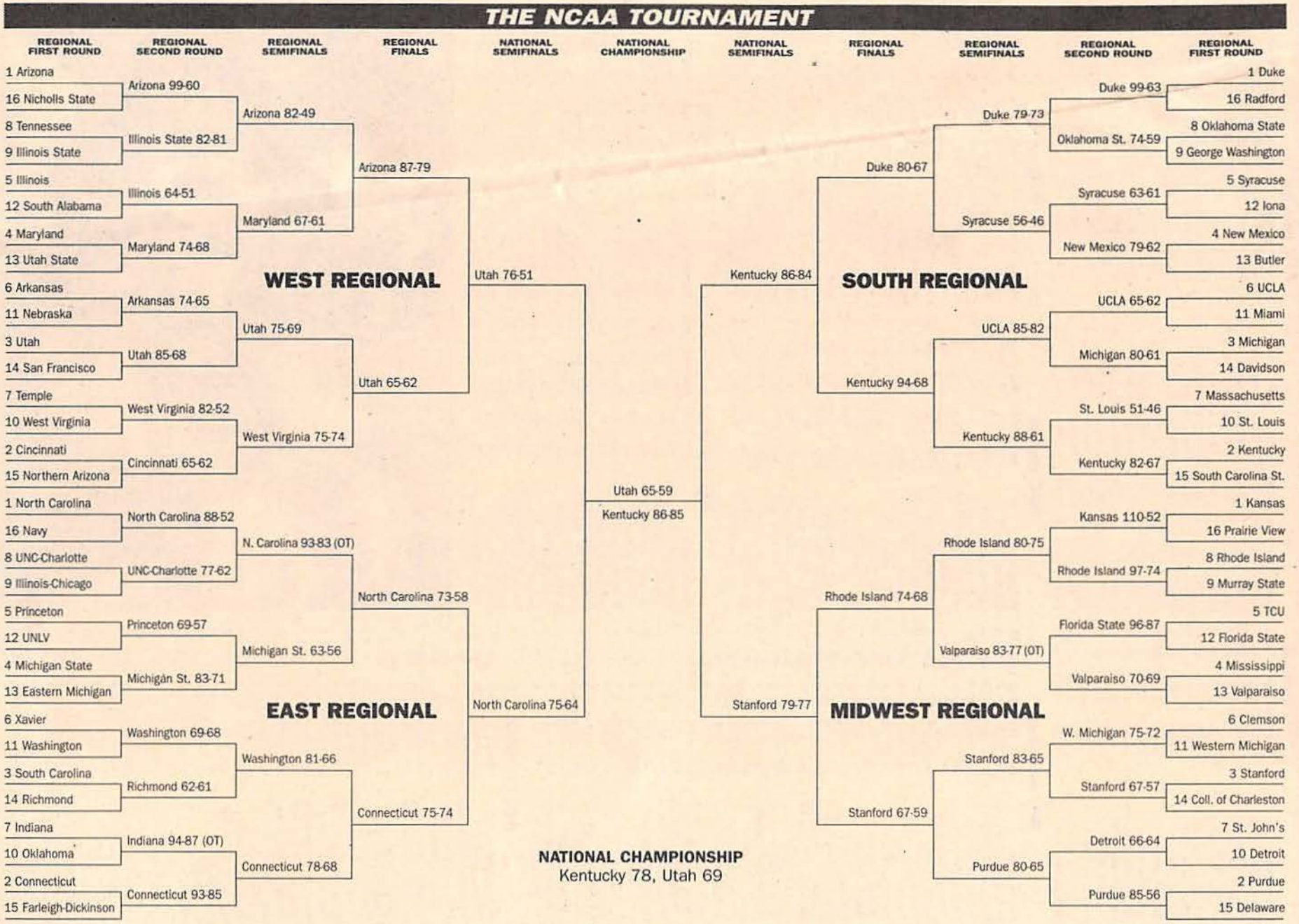
Player, Team	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	Pts
Hollis, Jacksonville	41	41	31	36	134
Elam, Denver	46	46	26	36	124
Hall, N.Y. Jets	36	36	28	41	120
Blanchard, Indianapolis	21	21	32	41	117
Mare, Miami	33	33	28	36	117
Vinatieri, New England	40	40	25	29	115
Del Greco, Tennessee	32	32	27	35	113
Stoyanovich, Kansas City	35	36	26	27	113
Stover, Baltimore	32	32	26	34	110
G. Davis, Minn.-S.D.	31	32	26	34	109
N. Johnson, Pittsburgh	40	40	22	25	106
Peterson, Seattle	37	37	22	28	103
Christie, Buffalo	21	21	24	30	93
Pelfrey, Cincinnati	41	43	12	16	77
Ford, Oakland	33	35	13	22	72



TERRELL DAVIS

BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT

THE NCAA TOURNAMENT



THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

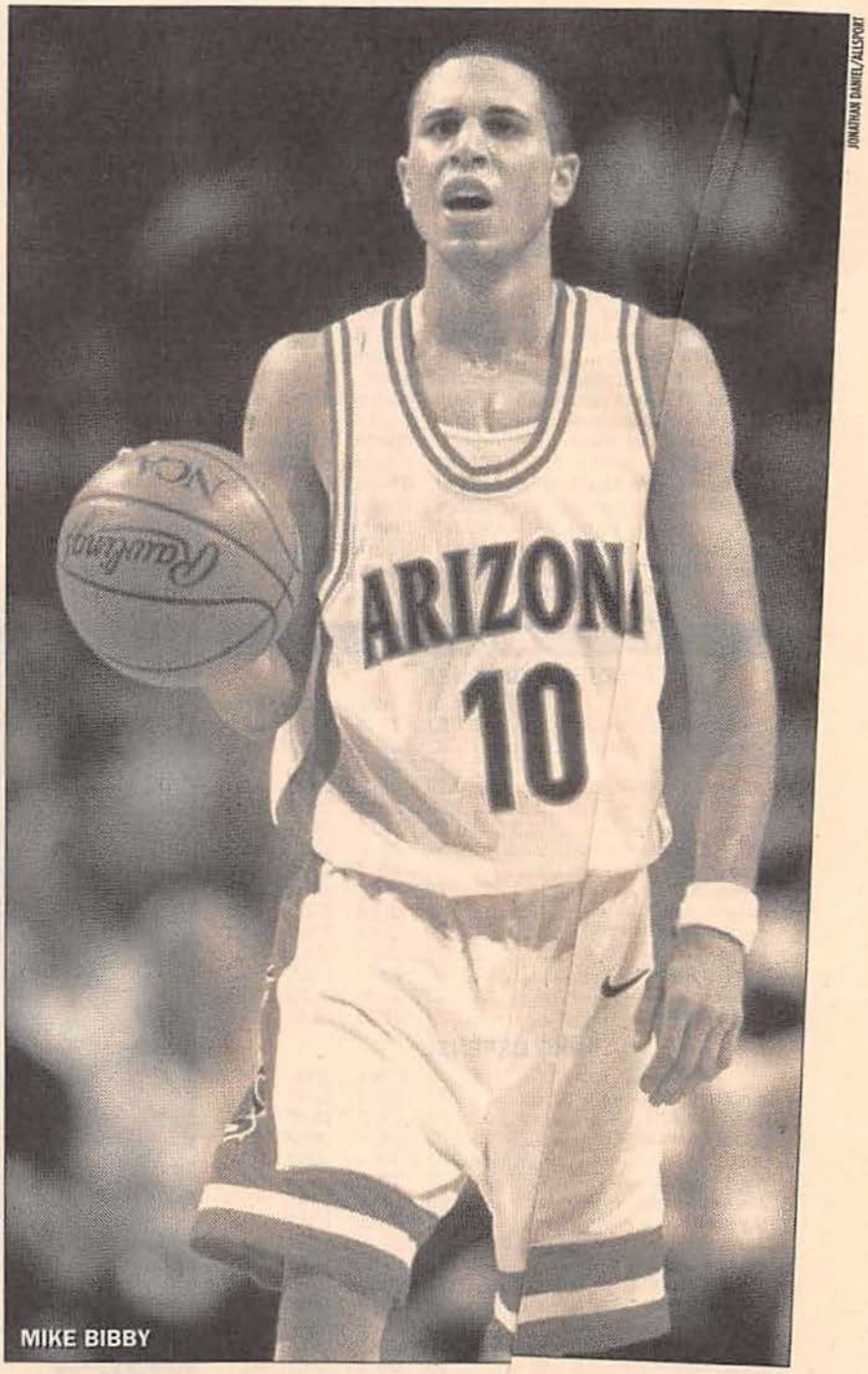
Just about every year, it's a pretty good guess Kentucky will win the national championship. But when the Wildcats rebounded from a 10-point second-half deficit to defeat Utah for the 1998 NCAA title, they capped a tournament run that was anything but ordinary.

With head coach **Rick Pitino** off to the NBA's Boston Celtics, and stars **Ron Mercer**, **Anthony Epps** and **Derek Anderson** also gone, Kentucky was not a popular choice to win what was their second title in three years. But the Wildcats bonded into a gritty, close-knit bunch under new coach **Tubby Smith**, using more of a half-court defense than the fullcourt style favored by Pitino.

In the final, scrappy guard **Jeff Sheppard** scored 16 points and was named most valuable player. Overall, the Wildcats shot 51 percent against a stingy Utah defense that had held other NCAA tournament opponents to an average of 38 percent.

NCAA TOURNAMENT NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

UCLA seniors **Toby Bailey**, **J.R. Henderson** and **Kris Johnson**, the freshman core of the 1995 championship team, made a memorable final run. The Bruins upset Michigan 85-82 to reach the Sweet 16, ironically finishing just in time to watch the coach of that 1995 Bruin team, **Jim Harrick**, leading Rhode Island to an 80-75 win over Kansas. Harrick had been fired prior to the 1996-97 season in an off-court controversy... In an opening week that ranked among the tournament's best, three double-digit seeds also reached the round of 16: West Virginia (10), Washington (11) and Valparaiso (13). Four games in the first two rounds went into overtime and 11 were decided by three points or less... Valpo's second-round upset of Mississippi was storybook: Guard **Bryce Drew** hit a clinching three-pointer at the last second to advance a team coached by his father, Homer... **Donald Watts**, son of former SuperSonics guard **Slick Watts**, scored 17 points to help Washington upset Xavier for its Sweet 16 spot... Second-seeded Cincinnati barely survived a first-round date with Northern Arizona, but still failed to exit the Boise, Idaho, subregional on a game-winner by West Virginia's **Jarrod West**, who brought back plenty memories of **Jerry West**... Possibly the most dramatic upset of the tournament, though, came in the round of eight, when heavy underdog Utah clobbered defending national champion Arizona, using a gimmicky triangle-and-two defense that kept constant pressure on Wildcat guards **Mike Bibby** and **Miles Simon** while giving streaky shooter **Michael Dickerson** an opportunity for boom or bust. Dickerson busted, and Utah advanced to the Final Four, later pulling off another big upset over North Carolina in the semifinal... The Tar Heels nearly didn't make it to the Sweet 16, much less the Final Four, when it ran into an aggressive North Carolina Charlotte team that took them to overtime before losing in the second round. The Tar Heels didn't have as much trouble beating Michigan State and Connecticut in subsequent rounds. Guard **Shammond Williams**, a Final Four goat a year earlier, helped the Tar Heels with improved shooting (he had 32 points against UNC Charlotte) while **Antawn Jamison** and **Vince Carter** led a balanced attack... Point guard **Arthur Lee**, who toiled in the shadow of **Brevin Knight** for two years at Stanford, made his mark with 13 points and an assist in the final two minutes to give the Cardinal a Midwest Regional final victory over Rhode Island and its first Final Four berth since 1942. Stanford also bullied its way around with a corps of six players standing 6-foot-8 or taller, led by **Mark Madsen**... Kentucky finally ousted the pesky Cardinal in the Final Four semifinal, however, rebounding from a 10-point deficit. Earlier, the Wildcats came back from 17 to beat Duke in the East Region with characteristic teamwork... As it turned out, the Final Four was so riviting, nobody noticed that the participants had lost Knight, Mercer and **Keith Van Horn** between them to the 1997 NBA Draft... The NCAA tournament selection committee proved it has a sense of humor by pitting Princeton against UNLV in the first round; Princeton held up its role as favorite, although it lost to Michigan State in the second round... Prairie View reached the NCAA field despite a 13-16 record and 263 RPI, the lowest ever for a tournament team.



MIKE BIBBY

JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

ALMANAC

19[illegible] REGULAR Season

The [illegible]t story happened before the season b[illegible]egendary North Carolina coach **Dean** characteristically avoiding a season o[illegible]ye ceremonies, pulled a surprise retir[illegible]nnouncement just before the season [illegible]. In doing so, he left a full deck of taler[illegible]ngtime assistant **Bill Guthridge**, who[illegible]er the Tar Heels and kept them on cou[illegible]C finished second in the Atlantic Co[illegible]erence but reached the Final Four ag[illegible]e losing to upstart Utah... On the ot[illegible]t, UCLA began the season in the n[illegible]n starters **Jelani McCoy** and **Kris J[illegible]** suspended for reportedly marijuana-r[illegible]asons. Johnson returned by Decem[illegible]ver, and was never a problem after-[illegible]t McCoy lasted about a month upon

his late-December return before he was permanently suspended... Interim coaches took over at Michigan (**Brian Ellerbe** for **Steve Fisher**) and Arizona State (**Don Newman** for **Bill Frieder**) when both head coaches suffered from off-court problems. Michigan won the inaugural Big Ten Tournament, beating Purdue 76-67 in the final, while Newman nearly coached the shorthanded Sun Devils into the NCAA field... Princeton was the feel-good story of the regular season, taking the back-door style of former coach **Pete Carril** to a higher level under **John Carmody**: The Tigers went 26-1, losing only a close game to North Carolina. Their Ivy League schedule made it difficult to figure how good they were, however, and they didn't last long in the tournament, losing to fourth-seeded Michigan State in the second round... Utah and Stanford went into late January with undefeated records, foreshadowing their Final Four appearances. Stanford started the season 18-0, without tenacious forward **Mark Madsen** for much of the time, but received a dose of reality with a weekend of home losses to both Arizona and Arizona State at the end of January... **DeMarco Johnson** led North Carolina-Charlotte to a second-place Conference USA finish and No. 8 tournament seed... Talent-laden UNLV shook off a disappointing regular season and reached its first NCAA berth since 1991 by winning the Western Athletic Conference Tournament on its home floor. Center **Keon Clark**, who followed a nomadic trail throughout his college career, missed 11 early games for NCAA violations and was permanently suspended from the Rebels late in the season... Duke used a highly rated contingent of freshmen to win the ACC and finish 29-3 to earn a No. 1 seed. A Maui Invitational championship in November served notice the fresh-faced Blue Devils were ready... Another top freshman, shooting guard **Larry Hughes**, led St. Louis to a 21-10 mark. He was Conference USA's top scorer at 22.5 points a game... Kansas breezed through the regular season with an experienced lineup and tough frontcourt led by **Raef LaFrentz** and **Paul Pierce**. In December, the Jayhawks also avenged a Southeast Region semifinal loss to Arizona the year before... **Ansu Sesay** led Mississippi State to a 22-6 season... Fresno State players spent nearly as much time on the front page for criminal activity than on the sports page. They started the season by suspending guard **Rafer Alston** for a game because of an altercation with his ex-girlfriend, while also suspending **Terrance Roberson** and **Daymond Forney** for not completing "team requirements." Things did not improve from there... Wisconsin forward Sam Okey transferred to Iowa, while Wake Forest center **Loren Woods** left for Arizona... Kentucky fans quickly embraced Tubby Smith and his personality, dispelling notions that he would suffer from the shadow of Pitino and possibly from the racial bias... It was clear by midseason that **Gale Catlett** had his best West Virginia team in 20 years, when the Mountaineers beat Georgetown and Miami in early January to become 14-2. Five senior starters, led by **Jarrod West**, keyed West Virginia's revival... Hawaii broke into the Top 25 poll for the first time in 24 years in January, but tailed off and did not make the NCAA field... Arizona beat Kentucky but lost to Duke, Kansas and Florida State before New Year's, making it clear a title repeat would not be easy... **Lou Henson** returned as interim coach to New Mexico State, which he took to the 1970 Final Four... North Carolina's **Antawn Jamison** was most everybody's MVP, with Kansas' **Raef LaFrentz** and Arizona's **Mike Bibby** high in voting for all major awards.

TAM STATISTICS

SCORING OFFENSE

	G	W-L	PTS.	AVG.
1. Texas Christian	33	27- 6	3209	97.2
2. LIU-Brooklyn	32	27- 5	3102	96.9
3. Arizona	35	30- 5	3177	90.8
4. Florida International	29	21- 8	2533	87.3
5. Murray State	33	29- 4	2862	86.7
6. Southern U.	27	14-13	2333	86.4
7. Duke	36	32- 4	3082	85.6
8. Kansas	39	35- 4	3300	84.6
9. Cal Poly SLO	28	14-14	2367	84.5
10. Arizona State	32	18-14	2703	84.5
11. Cal State-Northridge	28	12-16	2356	84.1
12. Purdue	36	28- 8	3014	83.7
13. Fairleigh Dickinson	30	23- 7	2511	83.7
14. Xavier	30	22- 8	2506	83.5
15. Fresno State	34	21-13	2835	83.4

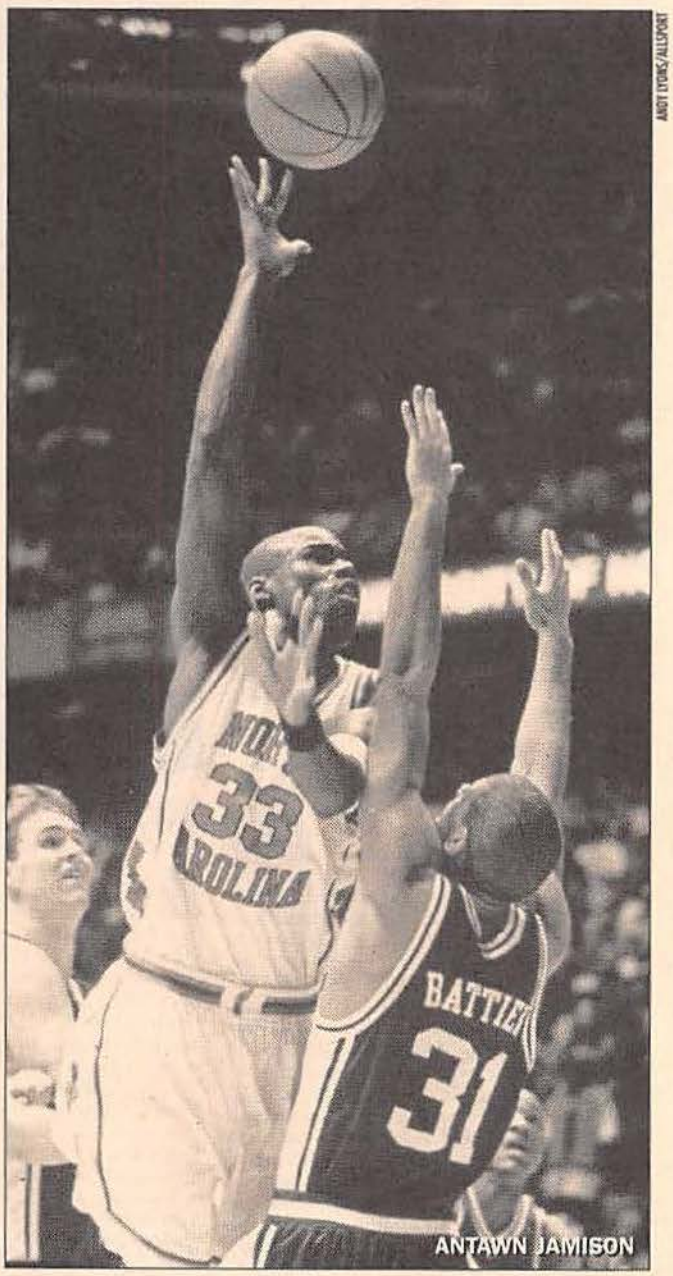
SCORING DEFENSE

	G	W-L	PTS.	AVG.
1. Princeton	29	27- 2	1491	51.4
2. South Alabama	28	21- 7	1526	54.5
3. Col. of Charleston	30	24- 6	1662	55.4
4. Utah	34	30- 4	1959	57.6
5. Wyoming	28	19- 9	1656	59.1
6. Wis.-Green Bay	29	17-12	1737	59.9
7. Marquette	31	20-11	1860	60.0
8. Temple	30	21- 9	1820	60.7
9. Bradley	29	15-14	1772	61.1
10. N.C.-Wilmington	31	20-11	1905	61.5
11. William & Mary	27	20- 7	1668	61.8
12. Richmond	31	23- 8	1920	61.9
13. North Carolina State	32	17-15	1988	62.1
14. Colorado State	29	20- 9	1802	62.1
15. Columbia	26	11-15	1616	62.2

WON-LOST PERCENTAGE

	W-L
1. Princeton	27- 2
2. Kansas	35- 4
2. Kentucky	35- 4
4. North Carolina	34- 4
5. Duke	32- 4
6. Utah	30- 4
7. Murray State	29- 4
8. Connecticut	32- 5
9. Arizona	30- 5
9. Stanford	30- 5
11. Cincinnati	27- 6
11. Iona	27- 6
11. Texas Christian	27- 6
14. Detroit	25- 6
14. Illinois State	25- 6

	W-L	PCT.
16. Col. of Charleston	24- 6	.800
17. Illinois-Chicago	22- 6	.786
18. Purdue	28- 8	.778
19. Fairleigh Dickinson	23- 7	.767
20. Mississippi	22- 7	.759
20. Oklahoma State	22- 7	.759
22. Utah State	25- 8	.758
23. New Mexico	24- 8	.750
23. South Alabama	21- 7	.750
25. Syracuse	26- 9	.743
26. Richmond	23- 8	.742
South Carolina	23- 8	.742
William & Mary	20- 7	.741
Michigan	25- 9	.735
Rhode Island	25- 9	.735


ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT

ANTAWN JAMISON

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

SCORING

Player, Team	CL	HT	G	TFG	3FG	FT	PTS.	AVG.
1. Charles Jones, LIU-Brooklyn	SR	6-3	30	326	116	101	869	29.0
2. Earl Boykins, Eastern Michigan	SR	5-5	29	266	85	129	746	25.7
3. Lee Nailon, Texas Christian	JR	6-9	32	329	1	137	796	24.9
4. Brett Eppehimer, Lehigh	JR	6-0	27	195	92	185	667	24.7
5. Cory Carr, Texas Tech	SR	6-4	27	209	67	143	628	23.3
6. Pat Garrity, Notre Dame	SR	6-9	27	214	40	159	627	23.2
7. Mike Powell, Loyola (Md.)	SR	6-3	28	197	46	207	647	23.1
8. Bonzi Wells, Ball State	SR	6-5	29	238	53	133	662	22.8
9. Xavier Singletary, Howard	SO	6-6	23	158	71	127	514	22.3
10. Michael Olowokandi, Pacific	SR	7-1	33	310	0	114	734	22.2
11. Antawn Jamison, N. Carolina	JR	6-9	37	316	6	184	822	22.2
12. Michael Redd, Ohio State	FR	6-6	30	241	46	130	658	21.9
13. Evan Eschmeyer, Northwestern	SR	6-11	27	200	0	185	585	21.7
14. Matt Harpring, Georgia Tech	SR	6-8	32	230	52	179	691	21.6
15. Saddi Washington, W. Mich.	SR	6-2	29	208	57	153	626	21.6
16. De'Teri Mayes, Murray State	SR	6-3	33	246	103	116	711	21.5
16. Richard Hamilton, Connecticut	SO	6-6	37	270	99	156	795	21.5
18. Mike Jones, Texas Christian	SR	6-3	33	263	62	114	702	21.3
19. Tyronn Lue, Nebraska	JR	6-0	32	240	78	120	678	21.2
20. Rick Kaye, Eastern Illinois	SR	6-5	27	196	44	134	570	21.1

REBOUNDING

Player, Team	CL	HT	G	NO.	AVG.
1. Ryan Perryman, Dayton	SR	6-7	33	412	12.5
2. Eric Taylor, St. Francis (Pa.)	SR	6-7	27	321	11.9
3. Raef LaFrentz, Kansas	SR	6-11	30	342	11.4
4. Tremaine Fowlkes, Fresno State	JR	6-8	32	359	11.2
5. Michael Olowokandi, Pacific (Cal.)	SR	7-1	33	369	11.2
6. T.J. Lux, Northern Illinois	JR	6-9	26	289	11.1
7. Thad Burton, Wright State	SR	6-8	28	305	10.9
8. Allen Ledbetter, Maine	JR	6-7	27	294	10.9
9. Rahshon Turner, Fairleigh Dickinson	SR	6-7	29	313	10.8
10. Kenyon Ross, Miss. Valley State	SR	6-6	27	291	10.8
11. K'Zell Wesson, La Salle	JR	6-7	27	290	10.7
11. Evan Eschmeyer, Northwestern	SR	6-11	27	290	10.7
13. Antawn Jamison, North Carolina	JR	6-9	37	389	10.5
14. Rocky Walls, Oral Roberts	SR	6-7	31	325	10.5
15. Jerome James, Florida A&M	SR	7-1	27	282	10.4

BLOCKED SHOTS

Player, Team	CL	HT	G	NO.	AVG.
1. Jerome James, Florida A&M	SR	7-1	27	125	4.6
2. Calvin Booth, Penn State	JR	6-11	32	140	4.4
3. Alvin Jones, Georgia Tech	FR	6-11	33	141	4.3
4. Etan Thomas, Syracuse	SO	6-9	35	138	3.9
5. Brian Skinner, Baylor	SR	6-10	28	98	3.5
6. Tarvis Williams, Hampton	SO	6-8	26	83	3.2
7. Caswell Cyrus, St. Bonaventure	SO	6-9	32	99	3.1
8. Chris Mihm, Texas	FR	7-0	31	90	2.9
9. Michael Olowokandi, Pacific (Cal.)	SR	7-1	33	95	2.9
10. Erik Nelson, Vermont	SR	6-7	27	76	2.8
11. Kenyon Martin, Cincinnati	SO	6-8	30	83	2.8
12. Kashif Hameed, Iona	JR	6-8	33	84	2.5
13. C.J. Black, Tennessee	SO	6-8	29	73	2.5
14. Michael Ruffin, Tulsa	JR	6-8	31	78	2.5
15. Antonio Reynolds-Dean, R.I.	JR	6-7	34	85	2.5

ASSISTS

Player, Team	CL	HT	G	NO.	AVG.
1. Ahlon Lewis, Arizona State	SR	6-0	32	294	9.2
2. Chico Fletcher, Arkansas State	SO	5-6	29	240	8.3
3. Sean Colson, N.C.-Charlotte	SR	6-0	29	231	8.0
4. Ed Cota, North Carolina	SO	6-1	37	274	7.4
5. Charles Jones, LIU-Brooklyn	SR	6-3	30	221	7.4
6. Anthony Carter, Hawaii	SR	6-1	29	212	7.3
7. Rafer Alston, Fresno State	JR	6-3	33	240	7.3
8. Mateen Cleaves, Michigan State	SO	6-2	30	217	7.2
9. Craig Claxton, Hofstra	SO	5-10	31	224	7.2
10. Michael Wheeler, Wagner	JR	5-9	28	197	7.0
11. Doug Gottlieb, Oklahoma State	SO	6-1	29	201	6.9
12. Shaheen Holloway, Seton Hall	SO	5-10	29	188	6.5
13. Ali Ton, Davidson	JR	6-0	30	193	6.4
14. Robin Kennedy, Nevada	SR	5-11	28	180	6.4
15. Jamar Smiley, Illinois State	SR	5-11	29	186	6.4

STEALS

Player, Team	CL	HT	G	NO.	AVG.
1. Bonzi Wells, Ball State	SR	6-5	29	103	3.6
2. Pepe Sanchez, Temple	SO	6-4	27	93	3.4
3. Willie Coleman, DePaul	JR	6-1	30	100	3.3
4. J.R. Camel, Montana	JR	6-2	29	90	3.1
5. Jason Rowe, Loyola (Md.)	SO	5-10	28	86	3.1
6. Damian Owens, West Virginia	SR	6-6	32	97	3.0
7. Jason Bell, VMI	JR	6-0	27	79	2.9
8. Mike Jones, Texas Christian	SR	6-3	33	96	2.9
9. Charles Jones, LIU-Brooklyn	SR	6-3	30	87	2.9
10. Mike Campbell, LIU-Brooklyn	SR	6-6	32	89	2.8
11. Joel Hoover, Md.-East. Shore	SO	6-0	27	74	2.7
11. John Thomas, St. Francis (N.Y.)	SR	5-9	27	74	2.7
13. Roderick Blakney, S. Carolina St.	SR	5-10	30	82	2.7
14. LaRon Profit, Maryland	JR	6-5	32	87	2.7
15. Jami Bosley, Akron	SO	6-0	21	57	2.7

FIELD GOAL PCT.
(min 5 FG made per game)

Player, Team	CL	HT	G	FG	FGA	PCT.
1. Todd MacCulloch, Washington	JR	7-0	30	225	346	65.0
2. Ryan Moss, Ark.-Little Rock	JR	6-7	28	167	257	65.0
3. Jarrett Stephens, Penn State	JR	6-7	31	165	258	64.0
4. Isaac Spencer, Murray State	SO	6-6	33	171	270	63.3
5. Brad Miller, Purdue	SR	6-11	34	191	302	63.2
6. Zoran Viskovic, Valparaiso	JR	6-11	33	176	280	62.9
7. Kareem Livingston, Appalachian	SR	6-7	29	145	231	62.8
8. David Montgomery, Southeast Mo.	JR	6-8	27	141	227	62.1
9. Travis Lyons, Manhattan	SR	6-5	29	172	277	62.1
10. Leon Watson, Texas-San Antonio	SO	6-8	27	151	245	61.6
11. Evan Eschmeyer, Northwestern	SR	6-11	27	200	328	61.0
12. Michael Olowokandi, Pacific (Cal.)	SR	7-1	33	310	509	60.9
13. Jermaine Young, Niagara	SR	6-8	27	137	226	60.6
14. Nate Holmstadt, Montana State	JR	6-8	30	190	315	60.3
15. Ryan Bowen, Iowa	SR	6-7	31	164	272	60.3

FREE THROW PCT
(min 2.5 made per game)

Player, Team	CL	HT	G	FT	FTA	PCT.
1. Matt Sundblad, Lamar	JR	6-2	27	96	104	92.3
2. Louis Bullock, Michigan	JR	6-3	34	123	135	91.1
3. Shammond Williams, North Carolina	SR	6-3	38	133	146	91.1
4. Kevin Ault, SW Missouri State	SO	6-2	32	99	110	90.0
4. Clifton Ellis, Southwest Texas	JR	6-0	28	72	80	90.0
6. Pete Lisicky, Penn St.	SR	6-4	32	106	119	89.1
7. Danny Sprinkle, Montana State	JR	6-2	29	73	82	89.0
8. Mike Wozniak, Cal Poly SLO	SO	6-2	27	129	145	89.0
9. Garrett Davis, Stetson	JR	6-3	26	87	98	88.8
10. Arthur Lee, Stanford	JR	6-0	35	164	185	88.6
11. Trajan Langdon, Duke	JR	6-4	36	101	114	88.6
12. Larry Jackson, Liberty	SR	6-1	28	98	111	88.3
13. Sean Colson, N.C.-Charlotte	SR	6-0	29	105	119	88.2
14. Bo Larragan, Marist	JR	6-2	28	112	127	88.2
15. Matt Ricketts, Yale	SR	6-2	26	88	100	88.0

3PT FIELD GOAL PCT
(min 1.5 P/G and 40%)

Player, Team	CL	HT	G	FG	FGA	PCT.
1. Jim Cantamessa, Siena	SO	6-8	29	66	117	56.4
2. Coby Turner, Dayton	JR	6-7	33	61	118	51.7
3. Royce Olney, New Mexico	SR	6-2	25	80	156	51.3
4. Mike Beam, Harvard	JR	6-2	25	41	80	51.3
5. Kenyan Weaks, Florida	SO	6-4	26	61	120	50.8
6. Jaraan Cornell, Purdue	SO	6-3	28	61	122	50.0
6. Matt Langel, Pennsylvania	SO	6-5	26	45	90	50.0
8. Justin Jones, Utah State	SR	6-3	33	60	121	49.6
9. Mike Warhank, Montana	SO	6-3	30	52	105	49.5
10. Rico Hill, Illinois State	JR	6-6	30	45	91	49.5
11. Tim Gill, Oral Roberts	SR	6-1	31	95	196	48.5
12. Toby Madison, South Alabama	SR	6-4	28	67	140	47.9
13. Mark Poag, Old Dominion	JR	6-6	28	90	190	47.4
14. Lynn Greer, Temple	FR	6-2	30	50	106	47.2
15. Jarod Stevenson, Richmond	SR	6-7	31	82	174	47.1

NBA Playoff Results

EASTERN CONFERENCE

First round (best of five)

CHICAGO 3, NEW JERSEY 0
Chicago 96, New Jersey 93 (OT)
Chicago 96, New Jersey 91
Chicago 116, New Jersey 101

NEW YORK 3, MIAMI 2
Miami 94, New York 79
New York 96, Miami 86
Miami 91, New York 85
New York 90, Miami 85
New York 98, Miami 81

INDIANA 3, CLEVELAND 1
Indiana 106, Cleveland 77
Indiana 92, Cleveland 86
Cleveland 86, Indiana 77
Indiana 80, Cleveland 74

CHARLOTTE 3, ATLANTA 1
Charlotte 97, Atlanta 87
Charlotte 92, Atlanta 85
Atlanta 96, Charlotte 64
Charlotte 91, Atlanta 82

Semifinals (best of seven)

CHICAGO 4, CHARLOTTE 1
Chicago 83, Charlotte 70
Charlotte 78, Chicago 76
Chicago 103, Charlotte 89
Chicago 94, Charlotte 80
Chicago 93, Charlotte 84

INDIANA 4, NEW YORK 1
Indiana 93, New York 83
Indiana 85, New York 77
New York 83, Indiana 76
Indiana 118, New York 107 (OT)
Indiana 99, New York 88

Finals (best of seven)

CHICAGO 4, INDIANA 3
Chicago 85, Indiana 79
Chicago 104, Indiana 98
Indiana 107, Chicago 105
Indiana 96, Chicago 94
Chicago 106, Indiana 87
Indiana 92, Chicago 89
Chicago 88, Indiana 83

WESTERN CONFERENCE

First round (best of five)

UTAH 3, HOUSTON 2
Houston 103, Utah 90
Utah 105, Houston 90
Houston 89, Utah 85
Utah 93, Houston 71
Utah 84, Houston 70

SEATTLE 3, MINNESOTA 2
Seattle 108, Minnesota 83
Minnesota 98, Seattle 93
Minnesota 98, Seattle 90
Seattle 92, Minnesota 88
Seattle 97, Minnesota 84

L.A. LAKERS 3, PORTLAND 1
L.A. Lakers 104, Portland 102
L.A. Lakers 108, Portland 99
Portland 99, L.A. Lakers 94
L.A. Lakers 110, Portland 99

SAN ANTONIO 3, PHOENIX 1
San Antonio 102, Phoenix 96
Phoenix 108, San Antonio 101
San Antonio 100, Phoenix 88
San Antonio 99, Phoenix 80

Semifinals (best of seven)

L.A. LAKERS 4, SEATTLE 1
Seattle 106, L.A. Lakers 92
L.A. Lakers 92, Seattle 68
L.A. Lakers 119, Seattle 103
L.A. Lakers 112, Seattle 100
L.A. Lakers 110, Seattle 95

UTAH 4, SAN ANTONIO 1
Utah 83, San Antonio 82
Utah 109, San Antonio 106 (OT)
San Antonio 86, Utah 64
Utah 82, San Antonio 73
Utah 87, San Antonio 77

Finals (best of seven)

UTAH 4, L.A. LAKERS 0
Utah 112, L.A. Lakers 77
Utah 99, L.A. Lakers 95
Utah 109, L.A. Lakers 98
Utah 96, L.A. Lakers 92

1998 PLAYOFFS

NBA PLAYOFF HIGHLIGHTS

What would the playoffs be without a fight between the Knicks and Heat? They got into a postseason scrap for the second year in a row, and the Knicks went to Miami to beat the suspension-depleted Heat 98-81 in the fifth game of the series to advance. There were no major first-round shocks, but the Jazz and SuperSonics were surprisingly extended to five games by the Rockets and Timberwolves, respectively. The Lakers served the most stunning notice in the conference semifinals by wiping out the Sonics 4-1 and sending Seattle coach **George Karl** to the firing line. The domination prompted talk of a Lakers championship. Chicago, Indiana and Utah each won in five games. Once the conference finals started, the talk about a Lakers run ended. The Jazz crushed the Lakers 112-77 in the opener of the Western Conference Finals, setting a tone for the rest of the series. Utah's sweep showed that a bunch of guys in their 30s know a little more about winning than the 20-something set. The Eastern Conference Finals underscored the same when the veteran-filled Bulls and Pacers played a memorable seven-game series. The home team won each game, and the Bulls advanced to the NBA Finals with an 88-83 victory in the series finale.

Eastern Conference Finals

Game 1 (At Chicago): Bulls 85, Pacers 79
Game 2 (At Chicago): Bulls 104, Pacers 98
Game 3 (At Indiana): Pacers 107, Bulls 105
Game 4 (At Indiana): Pacers 96, Bulls 94
Game 5 (At Chicago): Bulls 106, Pacers 87
Game 6 (At Indiana): Pacers 92, Bulls 89
Game 7 (At Chicago): Bulls 88, Pacers 83

Western Conference Finals

Game 1 (At Utah): Jazz 112, Lakers 77
Game 2 (At Utah): Jazz 99, Lakers 95
Game 3 (At Los Angeles): Jazz 109, Lakers 98
Game 4 (At Los Angeles): Jazz 96, Lakers 92

NBA FINALS

GAME 1 — Jazz 88, Bulls 85 (OT)

AT SALT LAKE CITY (June 3): The question going into the series was whether the Jazz would be rusty from a 10-day layoff after a message-sending sweep of the Lakers, or whether the Bulls would be tired from their draining seven-game series victory over the Pacers. It was a question with perhaps no answer because the Jazz and Bulls played a tight game that went into overtime. Then **John Stockton** scored seven of his 24 points to lift the Jazz to the victory. **Karl Malone**, who had 21 points and 14 rebounds but struggled through 9-of-25 shooting, scored the first basket in overtime to give Utah the lead for good. **Scottie Pippen**'s long 3-pointer at the buzzer, which would have forced another overtime, was long. This was first Finals overtime since the 1995 series between Houston and Orlando.

Chicago	17	23	19	20	6	—	85
Utah	17	28	22	12	9	—	88

Chicago: Pippen 7-19 6-6 21, Kukoc 4-12 0-0 9, Longley 4-7 2-2 10, Jordan 13-29 6-8 33, Harper 2-4 0-0 4, Rodman 0-2 0-0 0, Kerr 2-3 0-0 4, Buechler 0-1 0-0 0, Simpkins 0-0 0-0 0, Burrell 2-5 0-1 4, Brown 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals:** 34-82 14-16 85.
Utah: Russell 6-12 3-4 15, Malone 9-25 3-4 21, Foster 1-5 0-0 2, Hornacek 2-10 0-0 4, Stockton 9-12 6-7 24, Eisley 4-6 0-0 8, Morris 3-6 0-0 6, Ostertag 1-1 0-0 2, Anderson 3-5 0-0 6, Carr 0-3 0-0 0. **Totals:** 38-85 12-15 88.
FG Pct.: Chicago .415, Utah .447. **FT Pct.:** Chicago .875, Utah .800. **3-pt. FG:** Chicago 3-16 (Pippen 1-7, Kukoc 1-5, Jordan 1-2, Harper 0-1, Burrell 0-1), Utah 0-8 (Russell 0-4, Hornacek 0-1, Eisley 0-1, Morris 0-2). **Rebounds:** Chicago 49 (Rodman 10), Utah 51 (Malone 14). **Assists:** Chicago 14 (Kerr 5), Utah 23 (Stockton 8). Turnovers: Chicago 15 (Pippen 5), Utah 13 (Stockton, Anderson 3). **Att.:** 19,911.

GAME 2 — Bulls 93, Jazz 88

AT SALT LAKE CITY (June 5): In the noise-maker known as the Delta Center, **Michael Jordan**'s three-point play with 47 seconds left lowered the volume level, gave the Bulls the lead for good and handed the Jazz its first home playoff loss in nine games to even the series 1-1. Jordan didn't shoot particularly well (14 for 33), but still finished with 37 points. Defensively, the Bulls put **Dennis Rodman** on **Karl Malone**, and he hounded the Mailman into 0-for-4 shooting in the second half in what would be a theme for the early part of the series. Just as important, the Bulls grabbed 20 offensive rounds, including six in the fourth quarter. Their last three baskets were off offensive rebounds. They also forced 20 turnovers.

Chicago	23	27	20	23		—	93
Utah	20	26	27	15		—	88

Chicago: Kukoc 6-16 0-2 13, Pippen 7-13 7-7 21, Longley 2-2 0-0 4, Jordan 14-33 9-10 37, Harper 1-4 1-2 3, Kerr 1-5 4-4 7, Rodman 1-1 1-2 3, Burrell 2-5 0-0 5, Wennington 0-1 0-0 0, Buechler 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals:** 34-80 22-27 93.
Utah: Malone 5-16 6-9 16, Russell 4-7 0-0 11, Foster 0-1 0-0 0, Hornacek 7-11 4-4 20, Stockton 4-5 0-0 9, Anderson 4-7 4-5 12, Eisley 4-10 0-0 9, Morris 1-2 0-0 2, Carr 1-2 0-0 2, Keefe 0-2 0-0 0, Ostertag 3-4 1-1 7. **Totals:** 33-67 15-19 88.
FG Pct.: Chicago .425, Utah .493. **FT Pct.:** Chicago .815, Utah .789. **3-pt. FG:** Chicago 3-16 (Kukoc 1-6, Pippen 0-1, Jordan 0-2, Harper 0-1, Kerr 1-4, Burrell 1-2), Utah 7-13

(Russell 3-5, Hornacek 2-3, Stockton 1-2, Anderson 0-1, Eisley 1-2). **Rebounds:** Chicago 43 (Kukoc, Rodman 9), Utah 46 (Malone 12). **Assists:** Chicago 17 (Pippen 4), Utah 22 (Stockton, Eisley 7). Turnovers: Chicago 7 (Kukoc 3), Utah 20 (Malone 4). **Att.:** 19,911.

GAME 3 — Bulls 96, Jazz 54

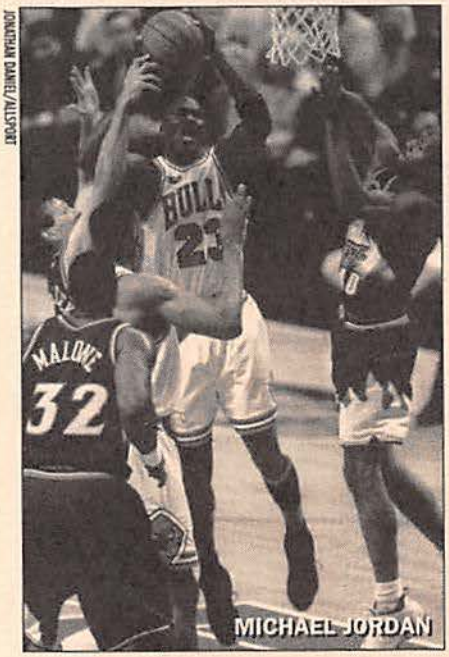
AT CHICAGO (June 7): Using a 32-14 second-quarter blowout, the Bulls served notice which team had won five championships over the previous seven years. And they didn't let up, either, outscoring Utah 24-9 in the fourth quarter. The Jazz noticed, taking exception to the Bulls' late-game celebrating, highlighted (or lowlighted depending on your point of view) by reserve **Jed Buechler** jacking up a pair of 3-pointers—and, of course, making them. **Michael Jordan** led the Bulls with 24 points. **Karl Malone** matched that output in his first solid game of the series, but none of his teammates reached double figures.

Utah	17	14	14	9	— 54
Chicago	17	32	23	24	— 96

Utah: Malone 8-11 6-6 22, Russell 1-7 3-4 5, Ostertag 1-7 0-0 2, Hornacek 3-8 0-0 6, Stockton 1-4 0-0 2, Anderson 3-6 1-2 8, Morris 2-9 1-2 5, Foster 0-2 0-0 0, Eisley 0-6 0-0 0, Carr 0-2 0-0 0, Keefe 2-2 0-0 4, Vaughn 0-6 0-0 0. **Totals:** 21-70 11-14 54.
Chicago: Pippen 5-10 0-1 10, Kukoc 7-12 2-2 16, Longley 3-8 2-4 8, Jordan 7-14 10-11 24, Harper 3-8 2-4 8, Burrell 4-5 2-2 10, Rodman 1-3 0-0 2, Kerr 2-5 0-0 6, Buechler 2-3 0-0 6, Brown 1-3 0-0 2, Simpkins 1-2 0-2 2, Wennington 1-3 0-0 2. **Totals:** 37-76 18-26 96.
FG Pct.: Utah .300, Chicago .487. **FT Pct.:** Utah .786, Chicago .692. **3-pt. FG:** Utah 1-9 (Russell 0-2, Hornacek 0-1, Anderson 1-1, Morris 0-3, Eisley 0-2), Chicago 4-11 (Pippen 0-1, Kukoc 0-2, Harper 0-1, Kerr 2-4, Buechler 2-3). **Rebounds:** Utah 45 (Ostertag 9), Chicago 54 (Harper 10). **Assists:** Utah 16 (Stockton 7), Chicago 25 (Harper 7). Turnovers: Utah 26 (Malone 7), Chicago 17 (Kukoc 4). **Att.:** 23,844.

GAME 4 — Bulls 86, Jazz 82

AT CHICAGO (June 10): Dennis Rodman likes to make it difficult for people to figure him out. He missed a practice the days leading up to Game 4, opting to make a wrestling gig that paid him $250,000. The two $10,000 fines he received were nothing. Then proving he hadn't lost his focus, Rodman made four free throws in the last three minutes and held **Karl Malone** scoreless until a late inconsequential basket to put the Bulls on the brink of their sixth NBA title in eight years. It was the first time all season the Jazz had lost three in a row, and Utah found itself in a 3-1 hole that no team has ever emerged from in the NBA Finals. Rodman wasn't the only Bulls hero. **Michael Jordan** (34 points) and **Scottie Pippen** (28) campaigned for the Finals MVP award with impressive performances.



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

Utah	19	18	20	25	— 82
Chicago	21	18	22	25	— 86

Utah: Malone 10-21 1-2 21, Russell 3-7 2-4 10, Keefe 2-4 2-4 6, Hornacek 3-8 2-2 8, Stockton 3-11 1-2 7, Anderson 2-5 3-3 7, Morris 4-7 1-2 9, Eisley 3-8 2-2 8, Foster 2-5 0-0 4, Carr 1-2 0-0 2, Ostertag 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals:** 33-78 14-21 82.
Chicago: Pippen 9-18 5-8 28, Kukoc 3-9 2-2 8, Longley 0-1 2-2 2, Jordan 12-27 10-15 34, Harper 2-7 2-4 6, Rodman 0-3 6-8 6, Burrell 1-5 0-1 2, Kerr 0-3 0-0 0, Buechler 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals:** 27-73 27-40 86.
FG Pct.: Utah .423, Chicago .370. **FT Pct.:** Utah .667, Chicago .675. **3-pt. FG:** Utah 2-15 (Russell 2-5, Stockton 0-3, Anderson 0-1, Morris 0-3, Eisley 0-2, Foster 0-1), Chicago 5-15 (Pippen 5-10, Kukoc 0-2, Harper 0-1, Kerr 0-2). **Rebounds:** Utah 50 (Malone 14), Chicago 61 (Rodman 14). **Assists:** Utah 24 (Stockton 13), Chicago 18 (Pippen 5). Turnovers: Utah 11 (Malone 4), Chicago 9 (Jordan 3). **Att.:** 23,844.

GAME 5 — Jazz 83, Bulls 81

AT CHICAGO (June 12): So much for a victory parade. The Jazz put an end to all the talk about how to celebrate the Bulls' latest championship. More specifically, **Karl Malone** put an end to it, carrying Utah with 39 points to force a sixth game and bring the series to within 3-2. He scored 17 points in the third quarter as the Jazz took the lead for good, and later made three critical baskets to hold off the Bulls, who were trying to rally. **Michael Jordan**'s difficult 3-pointer at the buzzer, which have given the Bulls the victory, did not come close. Malone's play and the Utah victory did more than put Chicago's title on hold, it presented the real possibility of a Jazz comeback. The Delta Center is one of the toughest places in the league to play, and whichever team won the title would have to take it in that building.

Utah	16	14	29	24	— 83
Chicago	18	18	19	26	— 81

Utah: Malone 17-27 5-6 39, Russell 2-6 0-0 5, Keefe 1-3 0-0 2, Hornacek 2-7 5-8 9, Stockton 3-7 0-0 6, Anderson 3-7 0-0 6, Carr 5-6 2-2 12, Morris 0-1 2-2 2, Eisley 0-1 0-0 0, Foster 1-2 0-0 2, Ostertag 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals** 34-67 14-18 83.
Chicago: Pippen 2-16 2-2 6, Kukoc 11-13 4-7 30, Longley 3-8 0-0 6, Jordan 9-26 10-11 28, Harper 1-6 0-0 3, Rodman 1-1 0-0 2, Kerr 2-4 0-0 6, Burrell 0-1 0-0 0, Buechler 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals** 29-75 16-20 81.
FG Pct.: Utah .507, Chicago .387. **FT Pct.:** Utah .778, Chicago .800. **3-pt. FG:** Utah 1-5 (Malone 0-1, Russell 1-3, Hornacek 0-1), Chicago 7-20 (Pippen 0-7, Kukoc 4-6, Jordan 0-2, Harper 1-1, Kerr 2-3, Burrell 0-1). **Rebounds:** Utah 44 (Malone 9), Chicago 43 (Pippen 11). **Assists:** Utah 24 (Stockton 12), Chicago 19 (Pippen 11). Turnovers: Utah 17 (Eisley 5), Chicago 16 (Pippen, Jordan 4). **Att.:** 23,844.

GAME 6 — Bulls 87, Jazz 86

AT SALT LAKE CITY (June 14): Three plays in the final 41 seconds. That could be the lasting image of **Michael Jordan**, who may have gone out as well as any top athlete could. Whether or not it was his final game, he certainly turned in one of the most memorable performances of his career and in NBA history. With 41 seconds left, **John Stockton** gave the Jazz an 86-83 lead with a 3-pointer. Jordan then drove quickly to get a basket, left **Jeff Hornacek** to sneak behind **Karl Malone** and steal the ball, and then made a picturesque fake of **Bryon Russell** to get an open 20-footer which Jordan nailed with 5.2 seconds remaining for the Bulls' third consecutive championship and their sixth in eight years. Jordan, the greatest player ever and still the best in the league even at 35 years old, scored 16 of his 45 points in the fourth quarter, including his team's final eight points. Even more remarkable, Jordan had little help as teammate **Scottie Pippen** missed most of the first half and found a way to somehow play in the second through excrutiating back pain. It was a gutsy performance by someone who has been questioned about his heart, but a performance that was overshadowed by another brilliant showing from Jordan.

Chicago	22	23	16	26	— 87
Utah	25	24	17	20	— 86

Chicago: Kukoc 7-14 0-0 15, Pippen 4-7 0-0 8, Longley 0-1 0-0 0, Jordan 15-35 2-15 45, Harper 3-4 2-2 8, Rodman 3-3 1-2 7, Kerr 0-0 0-0 0, Burrell 0-1 0-0 0, Buechler 1-1 0-0 2, Wennington 1-1, 0-0 2. **Totals:** 34-67 15-19 87.
Utah: Malone 11-19 9-11 31, Russell 2-5 3-4 7, Keefe 1-3 0-0 2, Hornacek 6-17 4-4 17, Stockton 4-10 1-2 10, Carr 4-7 1-2 9, Anderson 2-4 1-1 5, Morris 1-3 0-0 2, Eisley 1-1 1-3, Foster 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals:** 32-64 20-25 86.
FG Pct.: Chicago .507, Utah .500. **FT Pct.:** Chicago .789, Utah .800. **3-pt. FG:** Chicago 4-10 (Kukoc 1-2, Jordan 3-7, Harper 0-1), Utah 2-10 (Russell 0-2, Hornacek 1-3, Stockton 1-4, Morris 0-1). **Rebounds:** Chicago 35 (Rodman 8), Utah 39 (Malone 11). **Assists:** Chicago 17 (Kukoc, Pippen 4), Utah 19 (Malone 7). Turnovers: Chicago 11 (Pippen, Rodman, Wennington 2), Utah 17 (Malone 5). **Att.:** 19,911.

ALMANAC

1997-98 regular season

It was not the feel-good NBA that Commissioner **David Stern** likes to present to the world. Oh sure, there was still Michael Jordan being Michael Jordan, but talk of his possible retirement was just one of several clouds that hung over the season. There also was the talk whether this was the last real run for the Chicago Bulls, who faced possibly being dismanted by season's end. Coach **Phil Jackson** ended his successful run of six championships in eight seasons resigning. **Tim Floyd**, known derisively as General Manager **"Jerry Krause's boy,"** was hired to replace Jackson... Even more ominous than whether the Bulls would return in 1998 was the question about whether the NBA would be back this season. The owners locked out the players not long after the season ended, and talks were at an impasse over the summer. In fact, in the first serious negotiating session, owners abruptly walked out of the meeting when players presented some proposals of their own. What is the major issue? What else? Money. The owners claimed something needed to be done to streamline salaries and give more teams an opportunity to compete without making them go bankrupt. The players didn't see the situation that way. One of the most bitter fights was over the so-called **Larry Bird** exception, which allows teams to sign their own free agents at a limited amount, even if it exceeded the salary caps. The owners said this would put salaries in check, but the players countered that wasn't necessarily true and players generally stay with teams for entire careers, unlike other sports... The NBA also took a public relations hit throughout the season when several players got into trouble with the law. Some of the worst didn't deal with the law, although arguably could have. Golden State's **Latrell Sprewell** was fired by the Warriors after he choked out of the league for a year for his coach **P.J. Carlesimo**. An arbitrator reduced the sentence to the remainder of the season, and made the Warriors take Sprewell back to their roster. Sprewell later filed a lawsuit against the NBA, claiming his civil rights and had it dismissed. The $6.4 million in salary... On a lighter note, Pacific's **Michael Olowokandi** was the first overall pick of the draft. The 7-foot-1 center went to the Clippers. Arizona guard

Mike Bibby was chosen second by the Grizzlies, and the No. 3 pick was Kansas forward **Raef LaFrentz** by the Nuggets... **Clyde Drexler**, who starred for the Trail Blazers and most recently the Rockets, retired after 15 seasons. The sure Hall-of-Famer became the new University of Houston head basketball coach, the school heand **Hakeem Olajuwon** nearly led to the championship as students there... Bird was named the NBA Coach of the Year and was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. Hawks coach **Lenny Wilkens** was inducted for the second time, this time as a coach after going in nine years ago as a player. Only John Wooden has received that honor... **Tim Duncan** had a remarkable debut, being named the Rookie of the Year and to the All-NBA team. He showed his impact from the start, picking up 15 points and rebounds in his first game. Also on the All-NBA team were Jordan, **Karl Malone**, **Shaquille O'Neal** and **Gary Payton**.

ALL-STAR GAME

East 135, West 114

AT NEW YORK (b. 8): The United Center is **Michael Jordan**'s home court, but he always has played some of his best games in Madison Square Garden. And he did again, despite being in bill for three days leading up to the All-Star Game, leading to speculation Jordan might play. He played and led all scorers with 23 points on 10-for-18 shooting. Jordan also had eight assists, and captured his third All-Star Game Most Valuable Player award. This also was somewhat of a coming out for **Kobe Bryant**, who thrilled the crowd with several acrobatic moves. He led the West with 18 points, but did not play late in the game as Jordan took over.

West	25	33	23	—	114
East	33	34	34	—	135

West: Malone 2-4 0-0 4, Barkley 6-11 0-0 12, O'Neal 5-10 2-4 12, Bryant 7-22 4-5 18, Payton 3-7 0-0 7, Baker 3-12 2-2 8, Jones 1-2 1-2 15, Robinson 3-4 9-10 15, Richmond 4-7 0-0 8, Kidd 0-1 0-0 0, Duncan 1-4 0-0 2, Van Exel 4-14 2-2 13. **Totals:** 46-113 18-22 114.

East: Hill 7-11 0-0 15, Kemp 5-10 2-2 12, Mutombo 4-5 1-2 9, Jordan 10-18 3-3, A. Hardaway 3-5 0-0 6, T. Hardaway 3-8 0-0 , Williams 2-3 0-0 4, Smits 3-7 4-4 10, Miller 6-8 1- , Rice 6-14 0-0 16, Smith 6-12 0-0 14, Walker 0-0 4. **Totals:** 57-109 10-13 135.

FG Pct.: West .407, East .522. **FT Pct.:** West .818, East .769. **3-pt. FG:** West Garnett 0-1, Bryant 2-3, Payton 1-3, Jones 0-7, Barkley 0-2, Duncan 0-1, Van Exel 5-14), East Hill 1-1, Kemp 0-1, Jordan 1-1, A. Hardaway 0- , Williams 2-5, Miller 1-2, Rice 4-6, Smith 2-5, T. Hardaway 0-3). **Rebounds:** West 61 (Jones, Duncan 1), East 52 (Kemp 11). **Assists:** West 34 (Payton), East 32 (Jordan 8). Turnovers: West 18 (Payton), East 15 (T. Hardaway 6). **Att.:** 18,323.

Jordan and Malone were unanimous selections. Jordan also was named the league Most Valuable Player for the fifth time. Only **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** (six) and **Bill Russell** (five) have won it that many times. Jordan also was named the NBA All-Star Game MVP for the third time and the NBA Finals MVP for the sixth time... A record crowd of 62,046 showed up in Atlanta on March 27 to watch the Hawks host the Bulls. Amazingly, 8,000 fans had no view of the game, having to watch it on a big screen set up near the court. Jordan did not disappoint, leading the Bulls to an 87-74 victory by scoring 34 points. The previous record turnout was 61,983 on Jan. 29, 1988 to watch the Pistons and Celtics in the Silverdome... An NBA regular-season game was played in Mexico for the first time when the Rockets beat the Mavericks 108-106 before 20,35 fans. The game was Dec. 6 in Mexico City... Lakers broadcaster **Chick Hearn** announced his 3,000th consecutive game Jan. 19. He hasn't missed a broadcast since Nov. 20, 1965, and has failed to show up for work only twice since being hired in 1961... Olajuwon became the third player with 24,000 points, 12,000 rebounds and 2,500 assists. Abdul-Jabbar and **Wilt Chamberlain** are the other two... The first quadruple-overtime game in a decade was played Nov. 14. The Suns beat the Blazers 140-139 in the just the eighth quadruple-overtime game in NBA history.

ALL-NBA TEAMS

All-NBA Team

First team: Karl Malone, Jazz; Tim Duncan, Spurs; Shaquille O'Neal, Lakers; Michael Jordan, Bulls; Gary Payton, SuperSonics

Second team: Grant Hill, Pistons; Vin Baker, SuperSonics; David Robinson, Spurs; Tim Hardaway, Heat; Rod Strickland, Wizards

Third team: Scottie Pippen, Bulls; Glen Rice, Hornets; Dikembe Mutombo, Hawks; Mitch Richmond, Kings; Reggie Miller, Pacers

All-Defensive Teams

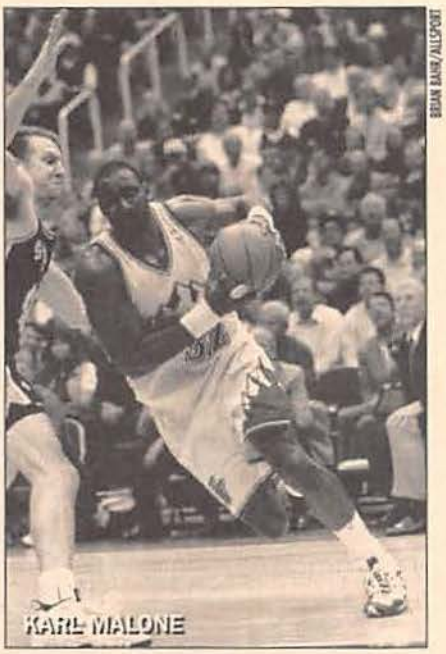
First team: Michael Jordan, Bulls; Gary Payton, SuperSonics; Scottie Pippen, Bulls; Karl Malone, Jazz; Dikembe Mutombo, Hawks

Second team: Tim Duncan, Spurs; Charles Oakley, Knicks; David Robinson, Spurs; Mookie Blaylock, Hawks; Eddie Jones, Lakers

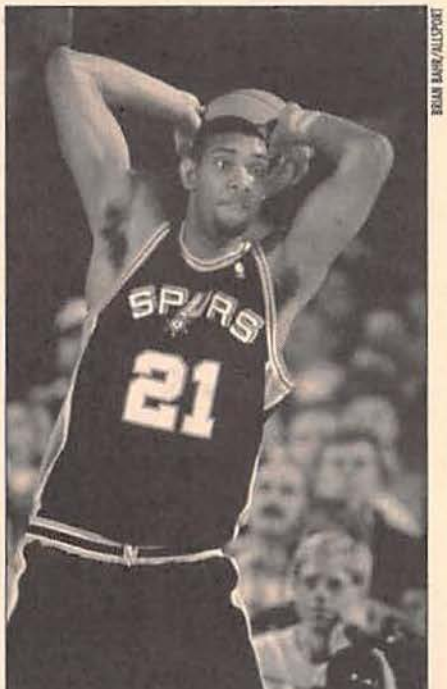
All-Rookie Teams

First team: Tim Duncan, Spurs; Keith Van Horn, Nets; Brevin Knight, Cavaliers; Zydrunas Ilgauskas, Cavaliers; Ron Mercer, Celtics

Second team: Tim Thomas, 76ers; Cedric Henderson, Cavaliers; Derek Anderson, Cavaliers; Maurice Taylor, Clippers; Bobby Jackson, Nuggets


KARL MALONE

BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT



TIM DUNCAN

BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT

FINAL 1998 NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	L	Pct.	GB	Home	Road
x-Miami	27	.671	—	30-11	25-16
y-New York	39	.524	12	28-13	15-26
y-New Jersey	39	.524	12	26-15	17-24
Washington	40	.512	13	24-17	18-23
Orlando	41	.500	14	24-17	17-24
Boston	56	.439	19	24-17	12-29
Philadelphia	61	.378	24	19-22	12-29

Central Division	L	Pct.	GB	Home	Road
x-Chicago	17	.756	—	37-4	25-16
y-Indiana	24	.707	4	32-9	26-15
y-Charlotte	33	.622	11	32-9	19-22
y-Atlanta	34	.610	12	29-12	21-20
y-Cleveland	41	.573	15	27-14	20-21
Detroit	37	.451	25	25-16	12-29
Milwaukee	36	.439	26	21-20	15-26
Toronto	19	.195	46	9-32	7-34

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	Home	Road
x-Utah	62	20	.756	—	36-5	26-15
y-San Antonio	56	26	.683	6	31-10	25-16
y-Minnesota	45	37	.549	17	26-15	19-22
y-Houston	41	41	.500	21	24-17	17-24
Dallas	20	62	.244	42	13-28	7-34
Vancouver	19	63	.232	43	14-27	5-36
Denver	11	71	.134	51	9-32	2-39

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	Home	Road
x-Seattle	61	21	.744	—	35-6	26-15
y-L.A. Lakers	61	21	.744	—	33-8	28-13
y-Phoenix	56	26	.683	5	30-11	26-15
y-Portland	46	36	.561	15	26-15	20-21
Sacramento	27	55	.329	34	21-20	6-35
Golden State	19	63	.232	42	12-29	7-34
L.A. Clippers	17	65	.207	44	11-30	6-35

(x-clinched division title; y-clinched playoff berth)

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Points

Player, Team	G	FG	FT	Pts	Avg
1. Michael Jordan, Chicago	82	881	565	2357	28.7
2. Shaquille O'Neal, L.A. Lakers	60	670	359	1699	28.3
3. Karl Malone, Utah	81	780	628	2190	27.0
4. Mitch Richmond, Sacramento	70	543	407	1623	23.2
5. Antoine Walker, Boston	82	722	305	1840	22.4
6. Shareef Abdur-Rahim, Vancouver	82	653	502	1829	22.3
7. Glen Rice, Charlotte	82	634	428	1826	22.3
8. Allen Iverson, Philadelphia	80	649	390	1758	22.0
9. Chris Webber, Washington	71	647	196	1555	21.9
10. David Robinson, San Antonio	73	544	485	1574	21.6
11. Michael Finley, Dallas	82	675	326	1763	21.5
12. Tim Duncan, San Antonio	82	706	319	1731	21.1
13. Grant Hill, Detroit	81	615	479	1712	21.1
14. Steve Smith, Atlanta	73	489	389	1464	20.1
15. Isaiah Rider, Portland	74	551	221	1458	19.7
16. Sam Cassell, New Jersey	75	510	436	1471	19.6
17. Ray Allen, Milwaukee	82	563	342	1602	19.5
18. Reggie Miller, Indiana	81	516	382	1578	19.5
19. Vin Baker, Seattle	82	631	311	1574	19.2
20. Gary Payton, Seattle	82	579	279	1571	19.2
21. Tim Hardaway, Miami	81	558	257	1528	18.9
22. Kevin Garnett, Minnesota	82	635	245	1518	18.5
23. Clyde Drexler, Houston	70	452	277	1287	18.4
24. Allan Houston, New York	82	571	285	1509	18.4
25. Shawn Kemp, Seattle	80	518	404	1442	18.0

Rebounds

Player, Team	G	Off	Def	Reb	Avg
1. Dennis Rodman, Chicago	80	421	780	1201	15.0
2. Jayson Williams, New Jersey	65	443	440	883	13.6
3. Tim Duncan, San Antonio	82	274	703	977	11.9
4. Dikembe Mutombo, Atlanta	82	276	656	932	11.4
5. David Robinson, San Antonio	73	239	536	775	10.6
6. Karl Malone, Utah	81	189	645	834	10.3
7. Anthony Mason, Charlotte	81	177	649	826	10.2
8. Antoine Walker, Boston	82	270	566	836	10.2
9. Arvydas Sabonis, Portland	73	149	580	729	10.0
10. Kevin Garnett, Minnesota	82	222	564	786	9.6
11. Chris Webber, Washington	71	176	498	674	9.5
12. Shawn Kemp, Cleveland	80	219	526	745	9.3
13. Charles Oakley, New York	79	218	506	724	9.2
14. Brian Williams, Detroit	78	223	472	695	8.9
15. Zydrunas Ilgauskas, Cleveland	82	279	444	723	8.8
16. Erick Dampier, Golden State	82	272	443	715	8.7
17. P.J. Brown, Miami	74	235	400	635	8.6
18. Donyell Marshall, Golden State	73	210	418	628	6.8
19. Ervin Johnson, Milwaukee	81	242	443	685	8.5
20. Kevin Willis, Houston	81	232	447	679	8.4
21. Horace Grant, Orlando	76	228	390	618	8.1
22. A.C. Green, Dallas	82	219	449	668	8.1
23. Vin Baker, Seattle	82	286	370	656	8.0
24. Dean Garrett, Denver	82	227	417	644	7.9
25. Bryant Reeves, Vancouver	74	196	389	585	7.9

Assists per game

Player, Team	G	Asst	Avg
1. Rod Strickland, Washington	76	801	10.5
2. Jason Kidd, Phoenix	82	745	9.1
3. Mark Jackson, Indiana	82	713	8.7
4. Stephon Marbury, Minnesota	82	704	8.6
5. John Stockton, Utah	64	543	8.5
6. Tim Hardaway, Miami	81	672	8.3
7. Gary Payton, Seattle	82	679	8.3
8. Brevin Knight, Cleveland	80	656	8.2
9. Damon Stoudamire, Portland	71	580	8.2
10. Sam Cassell, New Jersey	75	603	8.0
11. Avery Johnson, San Antonio	75	591	7.9
12. Nick Van Exel, L.A. Lakers	64	442	6.9
13. Grant Hill, Detroit	81	551	6.8
14. Mookie Blaylock, Atlanta	70	469	6.7
15. David Wesley, Charlotte	81	529	6.5
16. Allen Iverson, Philadelphia	80	494	6.2
17. Charlie Ward, New York	82	466	5.7
18. Clyde Drexler, Houston	70	382	5.5
19. Michael Finley, Dallas	82	405	4.9
20. Jim Jackson, Golden State	79	381	4.8
21. Antonio Daniels, Vancouver	74	334	4.5
22. Jeff Hornacek, Utah	80	349	4.4
23. Lee Mayberry, Vancouver	79	349	4.4
24. Detlef Schrempf, Seattle	78	341	4.4
25. Ray Allen, Milwaukee	82	356	4.3

Free throw percentage

Player, Team	FTM	FTA	Pct.
1. Chris Mullin, Indiana	154	164	.939
2. Jeff Hornacek, Utah	285	322	.885
3. Ray Allen, Milwaukee	342	391	.875
4. Derek Anderson, Cleveland	275	315	.873
5. Kevin Johnson, Phoenix	162	186	.871
6. Tracy Murray, Washington	182	209	.871
7. Hersey Hawkins, Seattle	177	204	.868
8. Reggie Miller, Indiana	382	440	.868
9. Christian Laettner, Atlanta	306	354	.864
10. Mitch Richmond, Scrmnto.	407	471	.864
11. Sam Cassell, New Jersey	436	507	.860
12. Terry Porter, Minnesota	167	195	.856
13. Steve Smith, Atlanta	389	455	.855
14. Howard Eisley, Utah	127	149	.852
15. Allan Houston, New York	285	335	.851
16. Chauncey Billups, Toronto	226	266	.850
17. Glen Rice, Charlotte	428	504	.849
18. Darrick Martin, L.A. Clprs.	184	217	.848
19. Terrell Brandon, Milwk.	132	156	.846
20. Keith Van Horn, N.J.	258	305	.846
21. Detlef Schrempf, Seattle	297	352	.844
22. Ron Mercer, Boston	188	224	.839
23. Blue Edwards, Vancouver	180	215	.837
24. Michael Curry, Milwaukee	147	176	.835
25. Mario Elie, Houston	145	174	.833

Blocks per game

Player, Team	G	Blk	Avg
1. Marcus Camby, Toronto	63	230	3.65
2. Dikembe Mutombo, Atlanta	82	277	3.38
3. Shawn Bradley, Dallas	64	214	3.34
4. Theo Ratliff, Philadelphia	82	258	3.15
5. David Robinson, San Antonio	73	192	2.63
6. Tim Duncan, San Antonio	82	206	2.51
7. Michael Stewart, Sacramento	81	195	2.41
8. Shaquille O'Neal, L.A. Lakers	60	144	2.40
9. Alonzo Mourning, Miami	58	130	2.24
10. Charles Outlaw, Orlando	82	181	2.21
11. Greg Ostertag, Utah	82	121	2.10
12. Ervin Johnson, Milwaukee	81	158	1.95
13. Kevin Garnett, Minnesota	82	150	1.83
14. Jim McIlvane, Seattle	78	137	1.76
15. Chris Webber, Washington	71	124	1.75
16. Erick Dampier, Golden State	82	139	1.70
17. Antonio McDyess, Phoenix	81	135	1.67
18. Zydrunas Ilgauskas, Clvlnd.	82	135	1.65
19. Dean Garrett, Denver	82	133	1.62
20. P.J. Brown, Miami	74	98	1.32
21. Robert Horry, L.A. Lakers	72	94	1.31
22. Kelvin Cato, Portland	74	94	1.27
23. Elden Campbell, L.A. Lakers	81	102	1.26
24. John Wallace, Toronto	82	101	1.23
25. Rik Smits, Indiana	73	88	1.21

Steals per game

Player, Team	G	Stl	Avg
1. Mookie Blaylock, Atlanta	70	183	2.61
2. Brevin Knight, Cleveland	80	196	2.45
3. Doug Christie, Toronto	78	190	2.44
4. Gary Payton, Seattle	82	185	2.26
5. Allen Iverson, Philadelphia	80	176	2.20
6. Eddie Jones, L.A. Lakers	80	160	2.00
7. Jason Kidd, Phoenix	82	162	1.98
8. Kendall Gill, New Jersey	81	156	1.93
9. Clyde Drexler, Houston	70	126	1.80
10. Hersey Hawkins, Seattle	82	148	1.80
11. Grant Hill, Detroit	81	143	1.77
12. Charlie Ward, New York	82	144	1.76
13. Lindsey Hunter, Detroit	71	123	1.73
14. Antoine Walker, Boston	82	142	1.73
15. David Wesley, Charlotte	81	140	1.73
16. Michael Jordan, Chicago	82	141	1.72
17. Kerry Kittles, New Jersey	77	132	1.71
18. Kevin Garnett, Minnesota	82	139	1.70
19. Tim Hardaway, Miami	81	136	1.68
20. Rod Strickland, Washington	76	126	1.66
21. Sam Cassell, New Jersey	75	121	1.61
22. Michael Finley, Dallas	82	132	1.61
23. Damon Stoudamire, Portl.	71	113	1.59
24. Wesley Person, Cleveland	82	129	1.57
25. Robert Horry, L.A. Lakers	72	112	1.56

3-point field goal percentage

Player, Team	3FGM	3FGA	Pct.
1. Dale Ellis, Seattle	127	274	.464
2. Jeff Hornacek, Utah	56	127	.441
3. Chris Mullin, Indiana	107	243	.440
4. Hubert Davis, Dallas	101	230	.439
5. Steve Kerr, Chicago	57	130	.438
6. Glen Rice, Charlotte	130	300	.433
7. Wesley Person, Cleveland	192	447	.430
8. Reggie Miller, Indiana	164	382	.429
9. Dell Curry, Charlotte	61	145	.421
10. Eldridge Recasner, Atlanta	62	148	.419
11. Kerry Kittles, New Jersey	110	263	.418
12. Matt Bullard, Houston	96	231	.416
13. Greg Anthony, Seattle	66	159	.415
14. Hersey Hawkins, Seattle	125	301	.415
15. Steve Nash, Phoenix	81	195	.415
16. Detlef Schrempf, Seattle	61	147	.415
17. Sam Mack, Vancouver	110	269	.409
18. Eric Piatkowski, L.A. Clprs.	105	259	.409
19. Dana Barros, Boston	100	246	.407
20. Voshon Leonard, Miami	153	378	.405
21. Dee Brown, Toronto	108	271	.399
22. Terry Porter, Minnesota	92	233	.395
23. Brent Barry, Miami	90	229	.393
24. Tracy Murray, Washington	158	403	.392
25. Sam Perkins, Seattle	87	222	.392

Field goal percentage

Player, Team	FGM	FGA	Pct.
1. Shaquille O'Neal, L.A. Lkrs.	670	1147	.584
2. Charles Outlaw, Orlando	301	543	.554
3. Alonzo Mourning, Miami	403	732	.551
4. Tim Duncan, San Antonio	706	1287	.549
5. Vin Baker, Seattle	631	1164	.542
6. Dikembe Mutombo, Atlanta	399	743	.537
7. Antonio McDyess, Phoenix	497	927	.536
8. Rasheed Wallace, Portland	466	875	.533
9. Karl Malone, Utah	780	1472	.530
10. Bryant Reeves, Vancouver	492	941	.523
11. Zydrunas Ilgauskas, Clev.	454	876	.518
12. Danny Manning, Phoenix	390	756	.516
13. Theo Ratliff, Philadelphia	306	597	.513
14. David Robinson, San Ant.	544	1065	.511
15. Brian Williams, Detroit	531	1040	.511
16. Kevin Willis, Houston	531	1041	.510
17. Anthony Mason, Charlotte	389	764	.509
18. Matt Geiger, Charlotte	358	709	.505
19. Tom Gugliotta, Minnesota	319	635	.502
20. Jayson Williams, N.J.	321	645	.498
21. Dale Ellis, Seattle	348	700	.497
22. Rik Smits, Indiana	514	1038	.495
23. Corliss Williamson, Sacr.	561	1134	.495
24. Arvydas Sabonis, Portl.	407	826	.493
25. Kevin Garnett, Minnesota	635	1293	.491

NHL Playoff Results

EASTERN CONFERENCE

First round (best of seven)

OTTAWA 4, NEW JERSEY 2
Ottawa 2, New Jersey 1 (OT)
New Jersey 3, Ottawa 1
Ottawa 2, New Jersey 1 (OT)
Ottawa 4, New Jersey 3
New Jersey 3, Ottawa 1
Ottawa 3, New Jersey 1

MONTREAL 4, PITTSBURGH 2
Montreal 3, Pittsburgh 2 (OT)
Pittsburgh 4, Montreal 1
Montreal 3, Pittsburgh 1
Pittsburgh 6, Montreal 3
Montreal 5, Pittsburgh 2
Montreal 3, Pittsburgh 0

BUFFALO 4, PHILADELPHIA 1
Buffalo 3, Philadelphia 2
Philadelphia 3, Buffalo 2
Buffalo 6, Philadelphia 1
Buffalo 4, Philadelphia 1
Buffalo 3, Philadelphia 2 (OT)

WASHINGTON 4, BOSTON 2
Washington 3, Boston 1
Boston 4, Washington 3 (OT)
Washington 3, Boston 2 (OT)
Washington 3, Boston 0
Boston 4, Washington 0
Washington 3, Boston 2 (OT)

Semifinals (best of seven)

WASHINGTON 4, OTTAWA 1
Washington 4, Ottawa 2
Washington 6, Ottawa 1
Ottawa 4, Washington 3
Washington 2, Ottawa 0
Washington 3, Ottawa 0

BUFFALO 4, MONTREAL 0
Buffalo 3, Montreal 2 (OT)
Buffalo 6, Montreal 3
Buffalo 5, Montreal 4 (OT)
Buffalo 3, Montreal 1

Finals (best of seven)

WASHINGTON 4, BUFFALO 2
Buffalo 2, Washington 0
Washington 3, Buffalo 2 (OT)
Washington 2, Buffalo 1 (OT)
Washington 2, Buffalo 0
Buffalo 2, Washington 1
Washington 3, Buffalo 2 (OT)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

First round (best of five)

DALLAS 4, SAN JOSE 2
Dallas 4, San Jose 1
Dallas 5, San Jose 2
San Jose 4, Dallas 1
San Jose 1, Dallas 0 (OT)
Dallas 3, San Jose 2
Dallas 3, San Jose 2

EDMONTON 4, COLORADO 3
Edmonton 3, Colorado 2
Colorado 5, Edmonton 2
Colorado 5, Edmonton 4 (OT)
Colorado 3, Edmonton 1
Edmonton 3, Colorado 1
Edmonton 2, Colorado 0
Edmonton 4, Colorado 0

DETROIT 4, PHOENIX 2
Detroit 6, Phoenix 3
Phoenix 7, Detroit 4
Phoenix 3, Detroit 2
Detroit 4, Phoenix 2
Detroit 3, Phoenix 1
Detroit 5, Phoenix 2

ST. LOUIS 4, LOS ANGELES 0
St. Louis 8, Los Angeles 3
St. Louis 2, Los Angeles 1
St. Louis 4, Los Angeles 3
St. Louis 2, Los Angeles 1

Semifinals (best of seven)

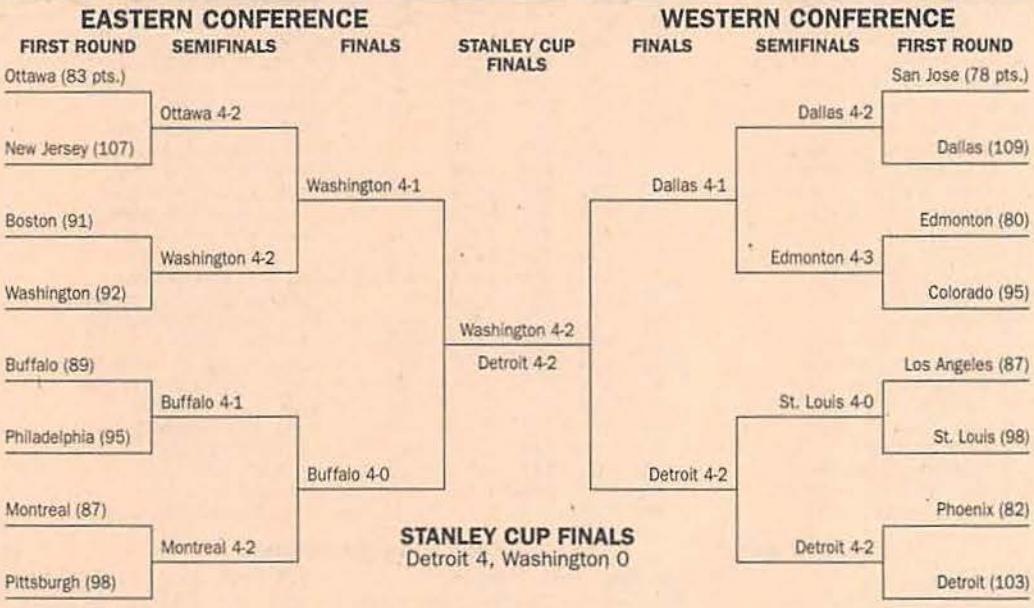
DALLAS 4, EDMONTON 1
Dallas 3, Edmonton 1
Edmonton 2, Dallas 0
Dallas 1, Edmonton 0
Dallas 3, Edmonton 1
Dallas 2, Edmonton 1

DETROIT 4, ST. LOUIS 2
St. Louis 4, Detroit 2
Detroit 6, St. Louis 1
Detroit 3, St. Louis 2 (OT)
Detroit 5, St. Louis 2
St. Louis 3, Detroit 1
Detroit 6, St. Louis 1

Finals (best of seven)

DETROIT 4, DALLAS 2
Detroit 2, Dallas 0
Dallas 3, Detroit 1
Detroit 5, Dallas 3
Detroit 3, Dallas 2
Dallas 3, Detroit 2 (OT)
Detroit 2, Dallas 0

1998 PLAYOFFS



STANLEY CUP FINALS

GAME 1 — Detroit 2, Washington 1

AT DETROIT: The Red Wings rode defense to the Game 1 victory, allowing the Capitals only 17 shots. Plus, **Tomas Holmstrom** was responsible for both first-period goals that gave the Wings just enough. He set up goals by **Joe Kocur** and **Nicklas Lidstrom** within 2:14 of each other to provide what turned out to be the difference. That gave Holmstrom 16 playoff points after totaling just 22 in 57 regular-season games.

GAME 2 — Detroit 5, Washington 4

AT DETROIT: Another tough game by the Capitals, but the Red Wings survived when **Kris Draper** scored 15:24 into overtime for a 2-0 series lead. It was Draper's first career overtime playoff goal, rescuing Detroit that found itself down by two goals twice. However, the Wings outshot Washington 32-10 in the third period and overtime, rallying from a 4-2 third-period deficit. The Caps had a chance to possibly put away the game midway through the third when **Esa Tikkanen** missed an open net that would have given them a 5-3 lead.

GAME 3 — Detroit 2, Washington 1

AT WASHINGTON: Although the Red Wings went up 3-0, they faced a third consecutive tough battle with the Capitals to get there. Finally, **Sergei Fedorov** slipped a shot over Washington goaltender **Olaf Kolzig**'s left shoulder with 4:51 left for the game-winner. It was Fedorov's league-leading 10th playoff goal. The goal answered **Brian Bellows'** shot 34 seconds earlier that tied the game and broke Bellows' 11-game scoring drought. This game occurred on the one-year anniversary of the limousine crash that seriously Wings defenseman **Vladimir Konstantinov** and team masseur Sergei Mnatsakanov.

GAME 4 — Detroit 4, Washington 1

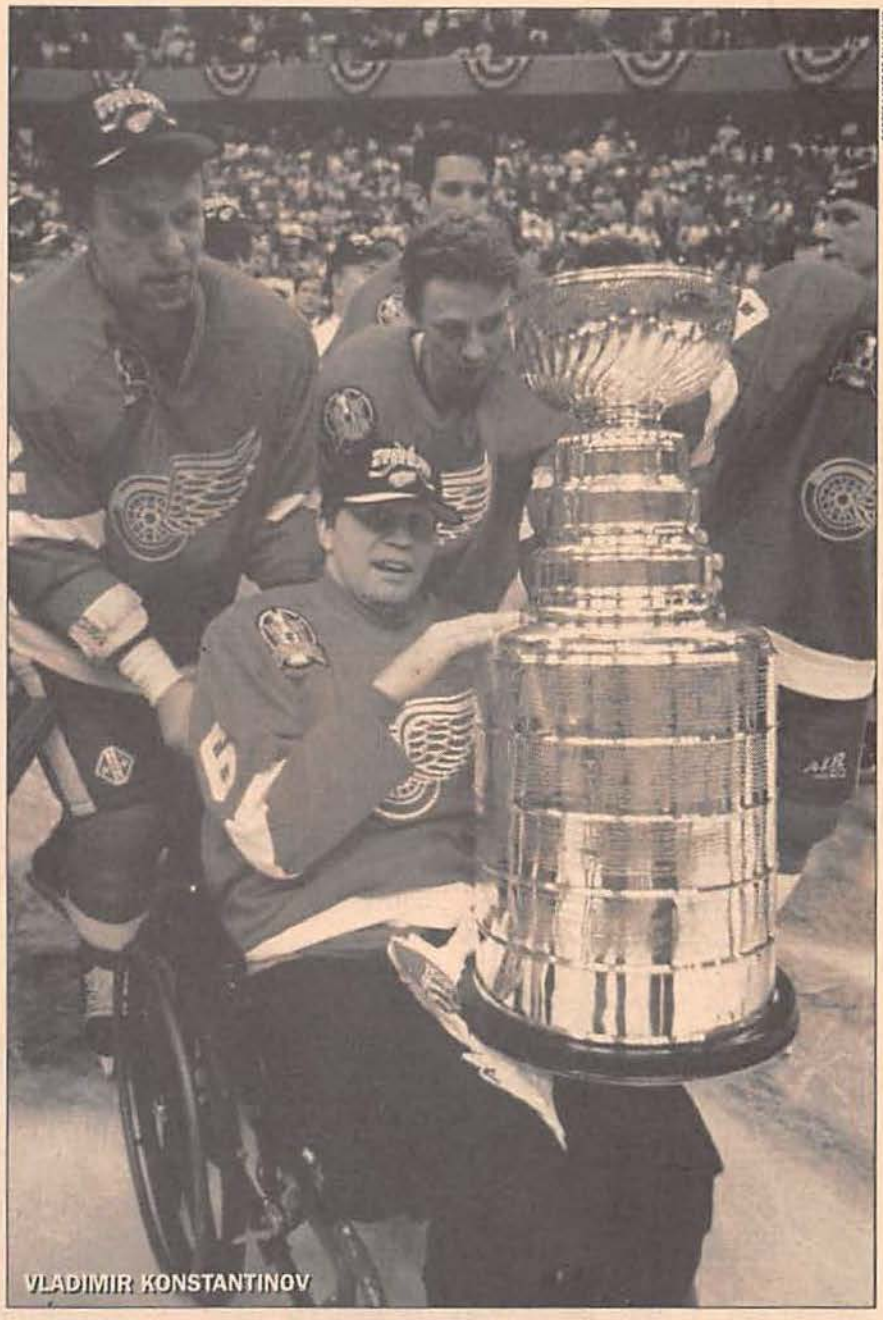
AT WASHINGTON: It was an emotional scene when **Vladimir Konstantinov** was wheeled onto the ice following the Red Wings' sweep of the Capitals to give them their second consecutive Stanley Cup. Konstantinov was an integral member of the 1997 championship. Detroit became the first repeat champion since Pittsburgh in 1991-92, and the first team two repeat sweeps since the New York Islanders in 1982-83. Coach

Scotty Bowman added to an incredible career with his eighth Stanley Cup to tie **Toe Blake**, and this was his fifth sweep. Washington, meanwhile, became the third consecutive Eastern Conference team to be swept. The Wings used their special teams to win this game, going 3-for-4 on the power play after being shut out in 12 previous attempts in the Finals. **Steve Yzerman**, who led all postseason scorers with 24 points, was given the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP.

ALMANAC

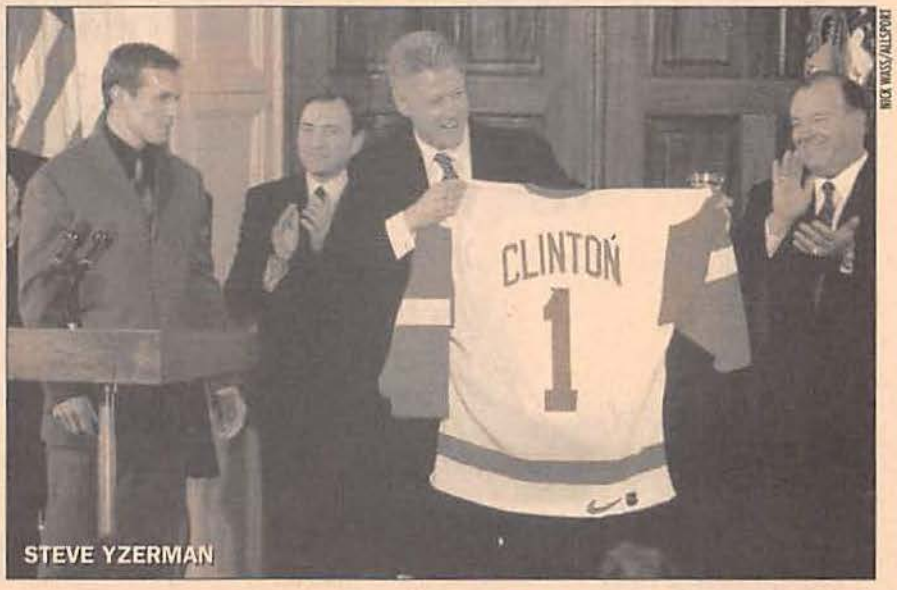
1997-98 regular season

The NHL took an unusual mid-season break so its top players could participate in the Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan. Buffalo Sabres goaltender **Dominik Hasek** dominated in leading the Czech Republic to the victory. Pre-Olympics favorites Canada and the U.S. were disappointments. The U.S. was a disappointment on and off the ice when team members trashed one of the hotel rooms and refused to admit who was responsible... Perhaps the biggest free-agent signing in the offseason was the Dallas Stars' inking of **Brett Hull** to a three-year, $17-million contract with an option year included. The signing ended a run of 10 years with the St. Louis Blues, where Hull was a three-time 70-goal scorer. However, at 33, his skills had begun to diminish. Last season, he scored a career-low 27 goals in 66 games, although his 72 points led the Blues for the fourth consecutive season. Although Hull was the Blues' career leading scorer, he had worn out his welcome in St. Louis and even was booed in his last home game... The glowing puck is no more. Walt Disney Co. bought the television rights to broadcast the NHL over the next five years at an astounding cost of $600 million. The figure was 2.6 times the amount ESPN and Fox, which created the glowing puck to try to give TV watchers a better view, paid combined. Games, though, will still be shown on ESPN because that network is owned by Disney. In fact, $350 million came from ESPN for the cable rights, and the rest from ABC. ESPN will show up to 200 games, and another 26 late-night games will be on ESPN2. ABC will bring just four to seven regular-season games, six playoff contests and up to five Stanley Cup Finals games. The amount spent was surprising considering Fox's ratings were down 33 percent since 1996, and ESPN's regular-season numbers dipped 13 percent last year... Perhaps the season's most vicious hit occurred Feb. 1 when Chicago Blackhawks defenseman **Gary Suter** cross-checked **Paul Kariya** of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks. Kariya missed the last 28 games of the season, suffering serious effects from his fourth career concussion. He did not begin to feel normal until mid-April... **Arthur Williams**, an insurance magnate, bought the Tampa Bay Lightning on July 14 from **Kokusai Green**, a Japanese company that ran the organization into the ground. The Lightning, which was in its sixth season, posted an NHL-worst 17-55-10 record. Tampa Bay went through two 16-game losing streaks. **Terry Crisp**, the only coach the team had ever had, was fired in mid-season and replaced by **Jacques Demers**. As for Williams, not only does he acquire the team, but he receives the rights to the Ice Palace and assumes the debt... Down the state, the Florida Panthers will play in a new arena, the National Car Rental Center in Broward County. National is paying $22 million of 10 years to be the title sponsor of the building, which will seat 19,088 for hockey and 20,000 for basketball. It also will include 2,236 club seats, 70 private suites, eight co-op suites, four party suites and two sky-view party suites. The Panthers' first regular-season game in the



ROBERT LABERGE/ALLSPORT

VLADIMIR KONSTANTINOV



RICK WASS/ALLSPORT

STEVE YZERMAN

building will be Oct. 9 against the Lightning... Buffalo and Tampa Bay played in Austria in September as part of the NIKE NHL International Challenge '98.

PLAYOFFS

It was not a good time to be a favorite, as a series of shocking upsets took place. Two No. 2 seeds went out to seventh seeds, but the biggest surprise was when the No. 8 Ottawa Senators toppled the No. 1 New Jersey Devils 4 games to 2. It was just the third time an eighth seed has beaten a No. 1. This was the Senators' first playoff appearance. Not a bad debut. Goaltender **Damian Rhodes** was their key, stopping 93.6 percent of the shots he faced and posting a 1.80 goals-allowed average. As for the other two major surprises, which includes the seventh seeds moving on, the Edmonton Oilers beat the Colorado Avalanche 4-3, and the Montreal Canadiens defeated the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-2. Edmonton rallied from a 3-games-to-1 deficit to pull off a first-round upset for the second consecutive year. The Oilers beat the Dallas Stars in seven games the year before. Goaltender **Curtis Joseph** allowed only one goal over the final three games against the Avalanche. **Mark Recchi** and **Vincent Damphousse** each totaled eight points to lead the Canadiens. In another first-round surprise, the No. 6 Buffalo Sabres behind the strong goaltending of **Dominik Hasek** blew by the No. 3 Philadelphia Flyers in five games. Hasek stopped 94.9 percent of the shots he faced, surrendering just 1.77 goals a game. In the other first-round series, Washington defeated Boston 4-2, Dallas beat San Jose 4-2, Detroit eliminated Phoenix 4-2 and St. Louis swept Los Angeles.

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

Detroit dominated in St. Louis, winning all three games there and taking the series in six games. **Martin Lapointe** scored two goals in the clinching victory, and **Steve Yzerman** had a goal and three assists. This was the third consecutive time the Red Wings have eliminated the Blues, but the first time St. Louis had lost three straight at home since Dec. 13-19, 1996. In the other Western Conference semifinal, the Dallas Stars reached their first conference final since 1991 by dispatching the Edmonton Oilers in five games. Goaltender **Ed Belfour** saved 119 of 123 shots. The Buffalo Sabres swept the Canadiens in one of the Eastern Conference semis, handing Montreal its third sweep ever. It also was the Sabres' first conference finals appearance in 18 years. Goaltender **Dominik Hasek** made 37 saves in the final game. Another goaltender, Washington's **Olaf Kolzig**, almost single-handedly lifted the Capitals to a 4-1 victory over the Ottawa Senators. He posted shutouts in the last two games, and went the final 149 minutes and 6 seconds without giving up a goal. For the series, Kolzig stopped 168 of 175 shots, a .960 percentage.

CONFERENCE FINALS

Detroit moved closer to its second consecutive Stanley Cup by topping the Dallas Stars in six games in the Western Conference finals. The Red Wings looked like they were going to run through the Stars, taking a 3-1 series lead, but Dallas stole Game 5 when **Guy Carbonneau** forced overtime with 1:25 left and **Jamie Langenbrunner** knocked in a 90-footer 46 seconds into the extra period for a 3-2 victory. Detroit shook off the stunner by winning Game 6 2-0 behind goaltender **Chris Osgood**'s 26 saves. It was his fifth career playoff shutout. **Larry Murphy** had a shorthanded goal and assist. The Eastern Conference finals was hyped as a battle between goaltenders. However, a knock on Buffalo Sabres goaltender **Dominik Hasek** is he sometimes melts down in big situations. He recorded a shutout in Game 1, and because it was his first playoff shutout in four years boosted some critics' claims. Indeed, Washington Capitals goaltender **Olaf Kolzig** posted his record-tying fourth shutout of these playoffs in Game 4, and generally outplayed Hasek in leading the Caps to a 4-2 series win. It put Washington in the finals for the first time in the franchise's 24-year history.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

(x-clinched division title; y-clinched playoff berth)

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
x-Pittsburgh	40	24	18	98	228	188
y-Boston	39	30	13	91	221	194
y-Buffalo	36	29	17	89	211	187
y-Montreal	37	32	13	87	235	208
y-Ottawa	34	33	15	83	193	200
Carolina	33	41	8	74	200	219

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
x-New Jersey	48	23	11	107	225	166
y-Philadelphia	42	29	11	95	242	193
y-Washington	40	30	12	92	219	202
N.Y. Islanders	30	41	11	71	212	225
N.Y. Rangers	25	39	18	68	197	231
Florida	24	43	15	63	203	256
Tampa Bay	17	55	10	44	151	269

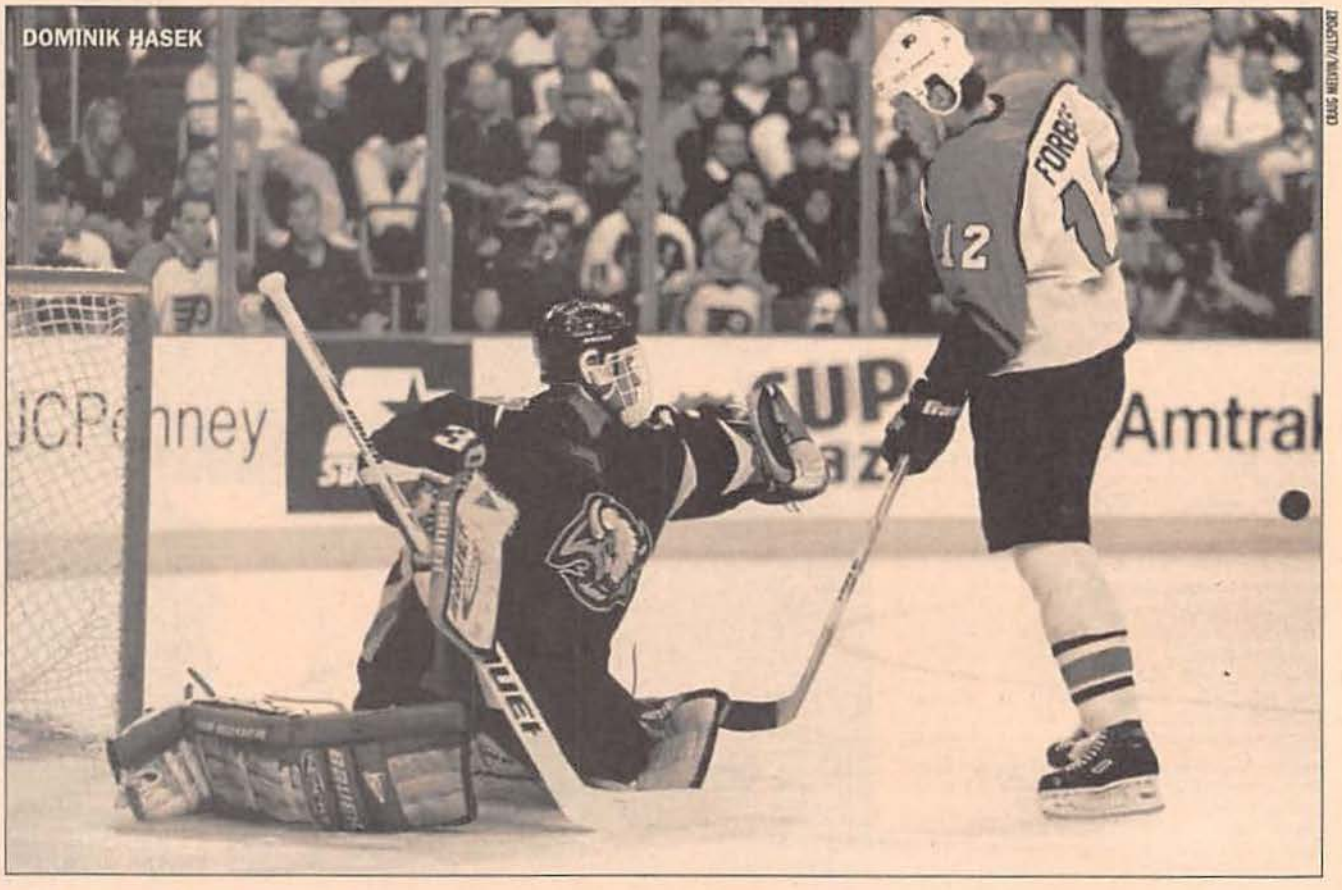
WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
x-Dallas	49	22	11	109	242	167
y-Detroit	44	23	15	103	250	196
y-St. Louis	45	29	8	98	256	204
y-Phoenix	35	35	12	82	224	227
Chicago	30	39	13	73	192	199
Toronto	30	43	9	69	194	237

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
x-Colorado	39	26	17	95	231	205
y-Los Angeles	38	33	11	87	227	225
y-Edmonton	35	37	10	80	215	224
y-San Jose	34	38	10	78	210	216
Calgary	26	41	15	67	217	252
Anaheim	26	43	13	65	205	261
Vancouver	25	43	14	64	224	273



1997-98 NHL INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Point leaders

Player, Team	GP	ESP	PPP	SHP	P
Jaromir Jagr, Pittsburgh	77	64	38	0	102
Peter Forsberg, Colorado	72	51	37	3	91
Wayne Gretzky, N.Y. Rangers	82	60	30	0	90
Pavel Bure, Vancouver	82	56	25	9	90
Zigmund Palffy, N.Y. Islanders	82	48	35	4	87
John LeClair, Philadelphia	82	60	27	0	87
Ron Francis, Pittsburgh	81	55	32	0	87
Teemu Selanne, Anaheim	73	67	17	2	86
Jason Allison, Boston	81	56	25	2	83
Jozef Stumpel, Los Angeles	77	56	21	2	79
Peter Bondra, Washington	76	52	21	5	78
Theoren Fleury, Calgary	82	49	22	7	78
Adam Oates, Washington	82	44	26	6	76
Mark Recchi, Montreal	82	44	29	1	74
Rod Brind'amour, Philadelphia	82	46	24	4	74
Mats Sundin, Toronto	82	49	21	4	74
Tony Amonte, Chicago	82	48	19	6	73
Alexei Yashin, Ottawa	82	53	19	0	72
Brett Hull, St. Louis	66	49	22	1	72
Eric Lindros, Philadelphia	63	46	24	1	71

Goals

Player, Team	GP	ESG	PPG	SHG	G
Teemu Selanne, Anaheim	73	41	10	1	52
Peter Bondra, Washington	76	36	11	5	52
Pavel Bure, Vancouver	82	32	13	6	51
John LeClair, Philadelphia	82	35	16	0	51
Zigmund Palffy, N.Y. Islanders	82	26	17	2	45
Keith Tkachuk, Phoenix	69	29	11	0	40
Joe Nieuwendyk, Dallas	73	25	14	0	39
Rod Brind'amour, Philadelphia	82	24	10	2	36
Jaromir Jagr, Pittsburgh	77	28	7	0	35
Alexei Yashin, Ottawa	82	28	5	0	33
Jason Allison, Boston	81	28	5	0	33
Ray Whitney, Florida	77	21	12	0	33
Mats Sundin, Toronto	82	23	9	1	33
Mark Recchi, Montreal	82	22	9	1	31
Eric Daze, Chicago	81	21	10	0	31
Jeff Friesen, Sam Jose	79	18	7	6	31
Geoff Courtnall, St. Louis	79	25	6	0	31
Pat Verbeek, Dallas	82	22	9	0	31
Tony Amonte, Chicago	82	21	7	3	31
Stu Barnes, Pittsburgh	78	14	15	1	30
Eric Lindros, Philadelphia	63	19	10	1	30

Assists

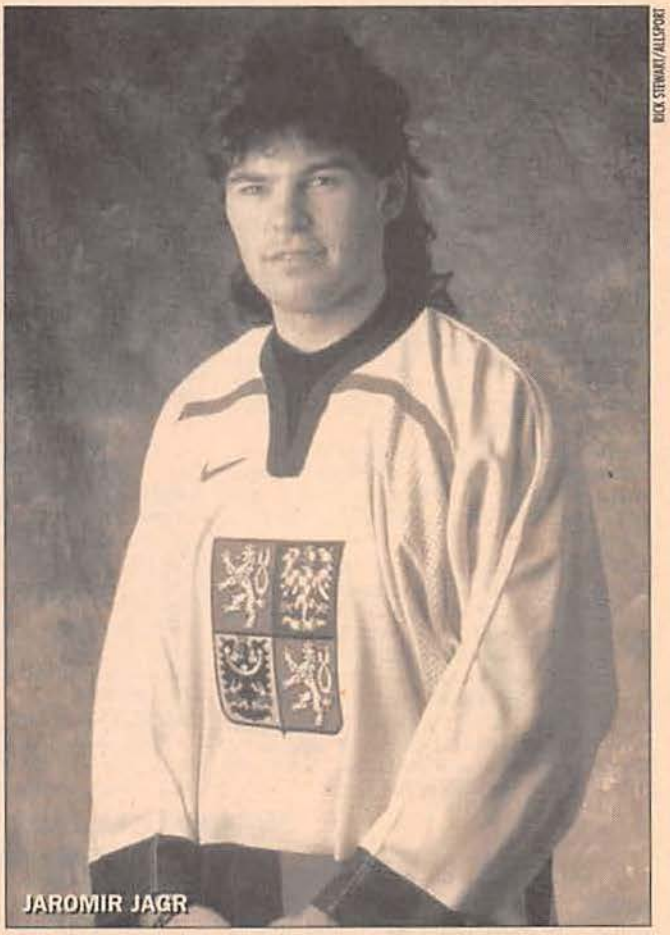
Player, Team	GP	ESA	PPA	SHA	A
Wayne Gretzky, N.Y. Rangers	82	43	24	0	67
Jaromir Jagr, Pittsburgh	77	36	31	0	67
Peter Forsberg, Colorado	72	36	36	0	66
Ron Francis, Pittsburgh	81	37	25	0	62
Jozek Stumpel, Los Angeles	77	39	17	2	58
Adam Oates, Washington	82	31	23	4	58
Theoren Flury, Calgary	82	27	19	5	51
Jason Allison, Boston	81	28	20	2	50
Sergei Zubov, Dallas	73	17	29	1	47
Pierre Turgeon, St. Louis	60	28	17	1	46

Goalies by Goals Against Average

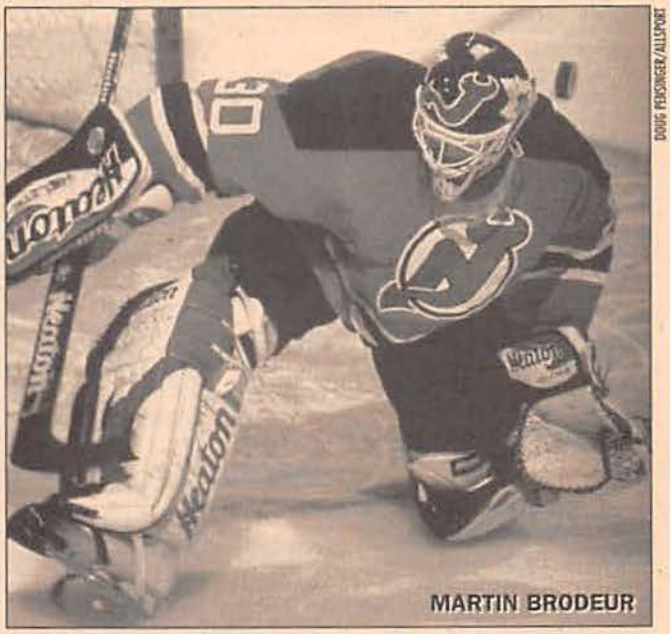
(min. 50 games played, category leaders in italics)

Player, Team	GP	W	L	T	SHO	GA	GAA
Ed Belfour, Dallas	61	37	12	10	9	112	*1.88*
Martin Brodeur, New Jersey	70	*43*	17	8	10	130	1.89
Tom Barrasso, Pittsburgh	63	31	14	13	7	122	2.07
Dominik Hasek, Buffalo	*72*	33	23	13	*13*	147	2.09
Olaf Kolzig, Washington	64	33	18	10	5	139	2.20
Jeff Hackett, Chicago	58	21	25	11	8	126	2.20
Chris Osgood, Detroit	64	33	20	11	6	140	2.21
Byron Dafoe, Boston	65	30	25	9	6	138	2.24
Damian Rhodes, Ottawa	50	19	19	7	5	107	2.34
Patrick Roy, Colorado	65	31	19	13	4	153	2.39
Mike Vernon, San Jose	62	30	22	8	5	146	2.46
Grant Fuhr, St. Louis	58	29	21	6	3	138	2.53
Curtis Joseph, Edmonton	71	29	31	9	8	181	2.63
Tommy Salo, N.Y. Islanders	62	23	29	5	4	152	2.64
Mike Richter, N.Y. Rangers	*72*	21	31	*15*	0	*184*	2.66

Felix Potvin of Toronto led in losses with 33



RICK STEWART/ALLSPORT



DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT

1997-98 NHL AWARDS

Vezina Trophy (Outstanding goalkeeper): Dominik Hasek, Buffalo
Norris Trophy (Outstanding defenseman): Rob Blake, Los Angeles
Selke Trophy (Best defensive forward): Jere Lehtinen, Dallas
Adams Award (Coach of the Year): Pat Burns, Boston
Lady Byng Trophy (Most sportsmanlike): Ron Francis, Pittsburgh
Calder Memorial Trophy (Rookie of the Year): Sergei Samsonov, Boston
Hart Memorial Trophy (Most Valuable Player): Dominik Hasek, Buffalo
Masterton Memorial Trophy (Perseverance): Jamie McLennan, St. Louis
Ross Trophy (Top point-scorer): Jaromir Jagr, Pittsburgh
Jennings Trophy (Lowest goals-against): Martin Brodeur, New Jersey

First team all-stars:

Peter Forsberg, C, Colorado
John LeClair, LW, Philadelphia
Jaromir Jagr, RW, Pittsburgh
Niklas Lidstrom, D, Detroit
Rob Blake, D, Los Angeles
Dominik Hasek, G, Buffalo

POSTSEASON ALMANAC

AMERICAN LEAGUE DIVISIONAL SERIES

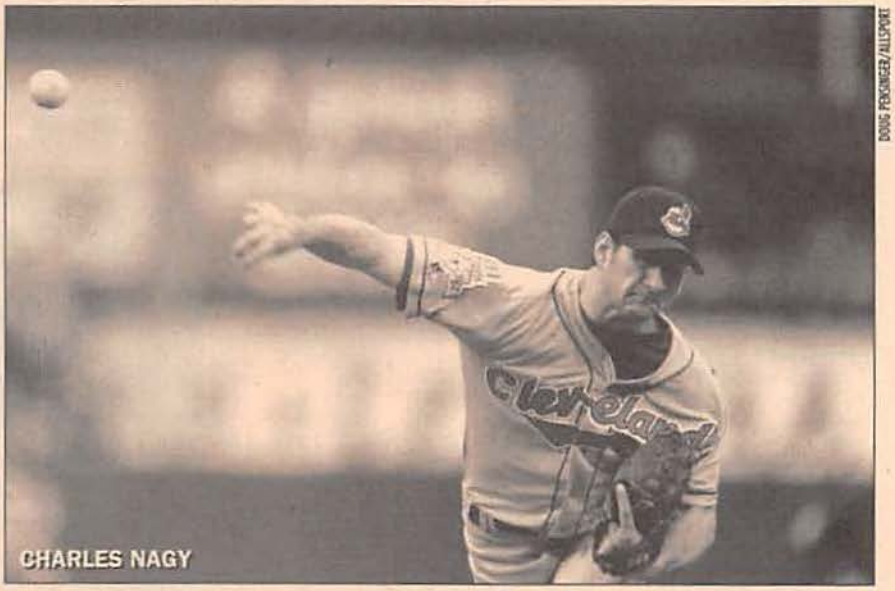
Boston vs. Cleveland
(Cleveland wins series 3-1)

GAME 1: **Mo Vaughn** hit two home runs and tied a postseason record with seven RBIs as the Red Sox defeated the Indians 11-3 at Jacobs Field. Red Sox shortstop **Nomar Garciaparra** hit a three-run homer and **Pedro Martinez** pitched seven innings to earn the victory as Boston snapped a 13-game playoff losing streak. Boston's last win in the postseason was in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series against the Mets.

GAME 2: Cleveland manager **Mike Hargrove** and starting pitcher **Dwight Gooden** were ejected after arguing with umpire **Joe Brinkman** but the Indians stormed back to defeat the Red Sox 9-5 at Jacobs Field. **Dave Burba** pitched 5⅓ innings after replacing Gooden and earned the victory. Hargrove and Gooden both disputed Brinkman's strike zone before getting the boot. Cleveland designated hitter **David Justice** went 2-for-4 with a homer and four RBIs.

GAME 3: **Charles Nagy** went to 5-0 lifetime at Fenway Park and the Indians won 4-3. Nagy allowed one run on four hits in eight innings. Boston rallied in the bottom of the ninth when Garciaparra hit a two-run homer off closer **Mike Jackson** to cut the Indians' lead to one run. Red Sox starter **Bret Saberhagen** allowed four hits in seven innings but three were home runs, by Jim Thome, Kenny Lofton and Manny Ramirez.

GAME 4: Justice's two-run double in the eighth inning was all the Indians would need in a tense 2-1 win at Fenway Park. Justice's game-winning hit came off reliever **Tom Gordon**, who had recorded a major-league record 43 consecutive saves this season. Gordon, who had a 9.00 ERA in the series, had not been brought in to start the eighth inning all season. Garciaparra struck again for Boston, hitting a solo homer in the fourth inning for his 11th RBI of the series.



CHARLES NAGY

JASON MILLER/REUTERS 2000

New York vs. Texas
(New York wins series 3-0)

GAME 1: **David Wells** continued his season-long mastery of AL hitters by pitching eight shutout innings as the Yankees shut down the Rangers 2-0 at Yankee Stadium. Wells gave up five hits and struck out nine to outduel Texas right-hander **Todd Stottlemyre**, whose father, Mel, is the Yankees pitching coach. New York scored its runs in the second inning, which included a run-scoring single by resurgent **Scott Brosius**.

GAME 2: Rookie **Shane Spencer** homered in his first postseason at bat and the Yankees went on to win 3-1 at Yankee Stadium. Left-hander **Andy Pettitte** made up for his tough season by pitching seven strong innings for the Yankees. He allowed one run on three hits and struck out eight. Brosius drove in two runs.

GAME 3: Inspired by a videotaped message from **Darryl Strawberry**, who was diagnosed with colon cancer between games 2 and 3, the Yankees eliminated the Rangers 4-0 at the Ballpark at Arlington. Strawberry, who underwent surgery the following day, told his teammates to "Go get 'em," and that's what they did after a rain delay of three hours. Spencer hit a three-run homer and **Paul O'Neill** added a solo shot and the Yankees shut out the Rangers for the second time in the series. David Cone lasted 5⅔ innings to pick up the victory.

NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISIONAL SERIES

Atlanta vs. Chicago
(Atlanta wins series 3-0)

GAME 1: **John Smoltz** allowed one run in 7⅔ innings and **Ryan Klesko** hit a grand slam as the Braves blew open a close game with the Cubs and won 7-1 at Turner Field. Klesko, who suffered from a power outage during the regular season, gave Atlanta a 7-0 lead with his seventh-inning homer. Chicago was making its first postseason appearance since 1989.

GAME 2: Third baseman **Chipper Jones** slapped a single to left field in the bottom of the 10th to drive home **Walt Weiss** as the Braves defeated the Cubs 2-1 at Turner Field. Weiss had reached base on a walk and advanced to second when Cubs pitcher **Terry Mulholland** and second baseman **Mickey Morandini** failed to cover first on a **Tony Graffanino** bunt that was fielded by first baseman **Mark Grace**. Braves catcher **Javy Lopez** had tied the game in the bottom of the ninth with a homer off Cubs starter **Kevin Tapani**, who pitched eight shutout innings.

GAME 3: **Greg Maddux** beat his former team and catcher **Eddie Perez** hit a grand slam as the Braves eliminated the Cubs 6-2 at Wrigley Field. Maddux, who left Chicago as a free agent after winning his first Cy Young Award in 1992, held the Cubs to two runs on seven hits in seven innings. Perez, Maddux's personal catcher, hit his homer in Atlanta's five-run eighth inning. Chicago starter **Kerry Wood**, who hadn't pitched in a big-league game in more than a month because of elbow soreness, allowed one run on three hits in five innings.

Houston vs. San Diego
(San Diego wins series 3-1)

GAME 1: **Kevin Brown** pitched a masterful game striking out 16 in eight innings as the Padres defeated the Astros 2-1 at the Astrodome. Brown outdueled **Randy Johnson**, who surrendered two runs on nine hits with nine strikeouts in eight innings. Padres left fielder **Greg Vaughn**, who hit 50 homers during the regular season, hit a solo shot in the eighth inning.

GAME 2: **Bill Spiers'** one-out RBI single in the bottom of the ninth helped the Astros recover from a blown lead and defeat the Padres 5-4 at the Astrodome. Houston had a 4-2 lead and closer **Billy Wagner** on the mound in the ninth inning only to see pinch-hitter **Jim Leyritz** tie the game with a two-run, two-out homer. Spiers was 3-for-5 and Houston first baseman **Jeff Bagwell** had three RBIs.

GAME 3: A Leyritz homer provided the margin this time as the Padres defeated the Astros 2-1 at Qualcomm Stadium. Leyritz, starting at first base in place of **Wally Joyner**, hit his seventh-inning blast off reliever **Scott Elarton**. Brown, pitching on three days' rest, allowed one run on three hits in 6⅔ innings.

GAME 4: Leyritz played the hero again, this time with a solo homer off **Randy Johnson** in the second inning to lead the Padres to a 6-1 victory at Qualcomm Stadium. The victory put San Diego back in the National League Championship Series for the first time in 14 years. Johnson lost his fifth consecutive postseason decision. Padres starter **Sterling Hitchcock** struck out 11 in six innings and first baseman **Wally Joyner** hit a two-run homer.

AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Cleveland vs. New York
(New York wins series 4-2)

GAME 1: **David Wells** pitched eight shutout innings and New York scored five runs in the first inning in a 7-2 victory over Cleveland at Yankee Stadium. **Paul O'Neill**, **Bernie Williams**, **Jorge Posada** and **Scott Brosius** had run-scoring singles in the first inning as the Yankees chased nemesis **Jaret Wright**, who only managed to retire two hitters. Wright defeated the Yankees twice in last season's Division Series. Wells surrendered a one-out, two-run homer to Indians right fielder **Manny Ramirez** to end the shutout bid. **Jeff Nelson** came on to retire the final two hitters.

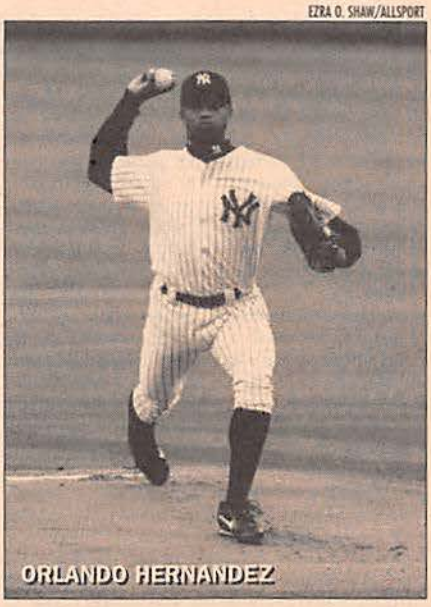
Brosius, **Derek Jeter**, O'Neill, Posada and Williams had two hits apiece.

GAME 2: A controversial call and mental lapse by Yankee second basemen **Chuck Knoblauch** opened the door for a 3-run 11th inning and a 4-1 Cleveland victory, evening the series. With none out and **Enrique Wilson** on first, the Indians' **Travis Fryman** laid down a perfect bunt down the first base line and then ran inside the baseline, getting hit with the Yankees' **Tino Martinez**'s throw as he touched the base. The ensuing protest by Knoblauch, who was covering the base, allowed Wilson to score and Fryman to reach third. The Yankees heavily contested the call to no avail, and a hit batsman, walk and one-out single brought home three runs off **Jeff Nelson** and **Graeme Lloyd**. Up to that point, the game was an intense pitcher's duel between New York's **David Cone** and Cleveland's **Charles Nagy**, who allowed one run apiece.

GAME 3: Four home runs and eight hits in 4⅔ innings off **Andy Pettitte** were more than enough for Cleveland to earn a 6-1 victory and 2-1 series lead. **Jim Thome** hit two homers and **Manny Ramirez** and **Mark Whiten** added one apiece to lead the Cleveland rout. **Bartolo Colon** shut down the Yankees, allowing just four hits and one run in recording the only complete game of the series.

GAME 4: **Paul O'Neill**'s home run in the first inning off former Yankee **Dwight Gooden** would prove to be enough for New York to even

EZRA O. SHAW/ALLSPORT



ORLANDO HERNANDEZ

the series at two. Cuban import **Orlando Hernandez** tossed seven shutout innings and the Yankees allowed only four hits in a 4-0 victory in Cleveland. After being defeated by brother **Livan Hernandez** twice in last year's World Series, the Indians were left wondering whether they could handle either Hernandez brother.

GAME 5: The Yankees scored four runs in 1⅓ innings off Cleveland starter **Chad Ogea**, but the Indians added their own two runs off Yankee starter **David Wells** in the first, including a leadoff homer by **Kenny Lofton**. **Jaret Wright**, who had started game one for Cleveland, pitched 6 innings, allowing only two hits including a home run to **Chili Davis**, but walked a whopping seven batters. Wells would bear down and strike out 11 Indians, allowing only one more run over his last 6⅓ innings, and **Mariano Rivera** recorded the final four outs to record his first save of the series.

GAME 6: After a 9-5 win over Cleveland, the Yankees were headed to their 35th World Series, and manager **Joe Torre** was spared having to decide whether regular starter **Andy Pettitte** would start game seven. In a game greatly affected by heavy rains in New York, the Yankees rocked Indians starter **Charles Nagy** for six runs, including a third-inning home run by **Scott Brosius**. Yankee starter **David Cone** pitched four strong innings before collapsing in the fifth, allowing a bases-loaded walk and a grand slam by **Jim Thome** to cut the lead to 6-5. But a two-run triple by **Derek Jeter** and an RBI single by **Bernie Williams** gave New York a four-run lead and **Ramiro Mendoza** and **Mariano Rivera** pitched four shutout innings. After the game, **David Wells** was named series MVP for his two victories.

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Atlanta vs. San Diego
(San Diego wins series 4-2)

GAME 1: San Diego's **Andy Ashby** outdueled Atlanta's **John Smoltz**, as San Diego took the series opener 3-2 in 10 innings. **Andruw Jones**' home run in the third gave Atlanta a 1-0 lead, but an RBI single by **Tony Gwynn** and a run-scoring error by Atlanta's **Andres Galarraga** gave the Padres a 2-1 lead. Atlanta would tie the game on a Jones sacrifice fly against baseball's best closer, **Trevor Hoffman**, in the ninth, but **Ken Caminiti**'s one-out home run in the 10th off Atlanta closer **Kerry Ligtenberg** was the difference in the game. **Donne Wall** recorded the final out for his first save.

GAME 2: **Kevin Brown** continued his complete dominance of the National League during the postseason, as San Diego cruised to a 3-0 victory and 2-0 series lead heading back home for three games. Brown stuck out 11 Braves and allowed only three hits and three walks in recording a complete-game shutout. RBI singles by **Quilvio Veras**, **Steve Finley** and **Wally Joyner** provided San Diego's runs.

GAME 3: The Padres' **Sterling Hitchcock** amazingly outdueled **Greg Maddux** over five innings as San Diego earned a 4-1 victory and 3-0 series lead. An RBI double by **Steve Finley** and RBI single by **Ken Caminiti** off Maddux in

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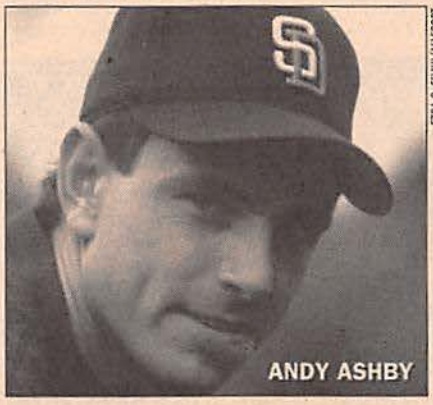


ANDY ASHBY

the fifth chased him out of the game. **Trevor Hoffman** recorded the game's final four outs for his first save.

GAME 4: Atlanta managed to stay alive for another day after an 8-3 win in San Diego. **Andres Galarraga**'s grand slam off **Dan Miceli** capped a six-run seventh, which began with a solo home run by **Javier Lopez** to break a 3-3 tie. San Diego's scoring punch was led by **Jim Leyritz**, who contributed an RBI single and solo home run in the sixth. **Dennis Martinez** picked up the win in relief, and Atlanta's bullpen allowed no runs for the first time in the series, one hit and two walks in 3⅓ innings.

GAME 5: With a 7-6 squeaker win over San Diego, Atlanta became the first team in postseason history to win games four and five after having lost the first three games of a series. Two-run homers by **Ken Caminiti** and **Greg Vaughn**-replacement **John Vander Wal** gave San Diego a 4-2 lead after six innings. Then the aces of both staffs got involved in the game, with differing levels of success. San Diego's **Kevin Brown** surrendered a three-run homer to **Michael Tucker**, who had five RBI in the game, and the Braves chased him from the game during their five-run eighth inning. Atlanta's **Greg Maddux** relieved closer **Kerry Ligtenberg**, after Ligtenberg had allowed a two-run home run to **Greg Myers**, and recorded the final three outs. For Maddux, it was his first career save and his first relief outing since 1987.

GAME 6: San Diego earned its second World Series appearance and first since 1984 after defeating the Braves 5-0 in Atlanta. **Sterling Hitchcock** shut out the Braves over five innings, recording eight strikeouts and earning his second victory in the series, as well as Series MVP honors.

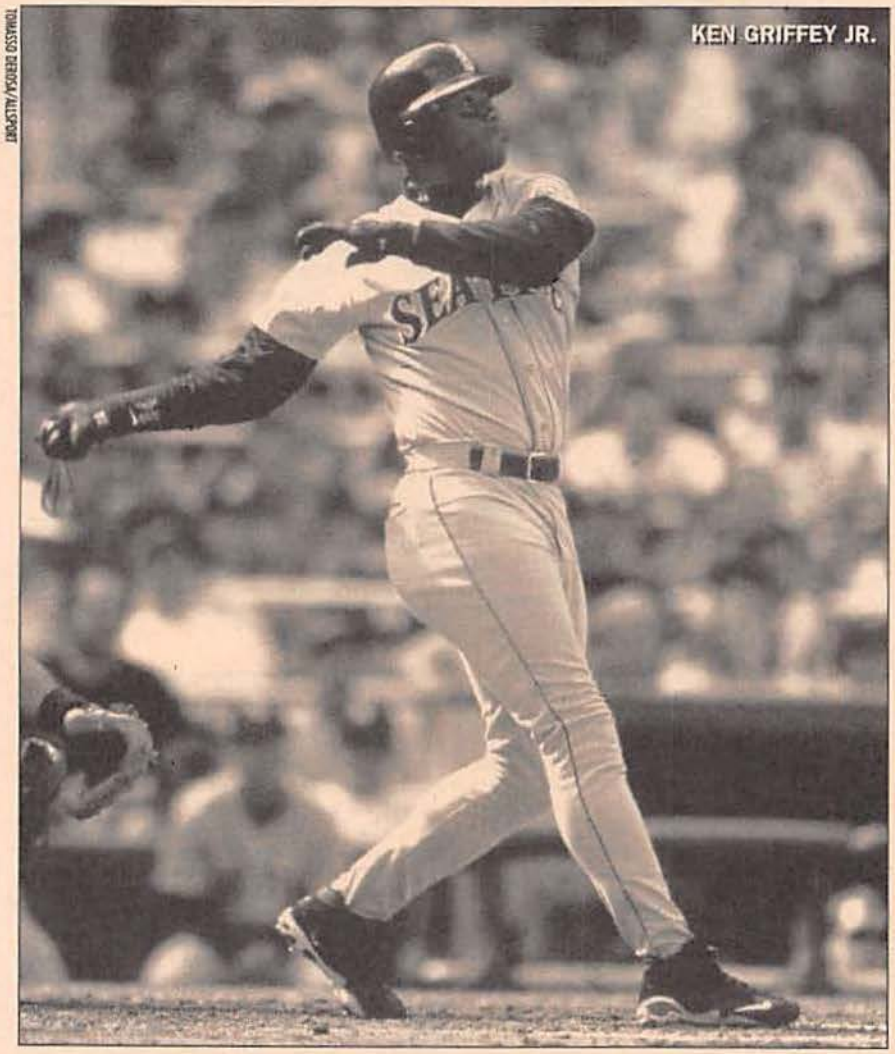
WORLD SERIES

New York Yankees vs. San Diego

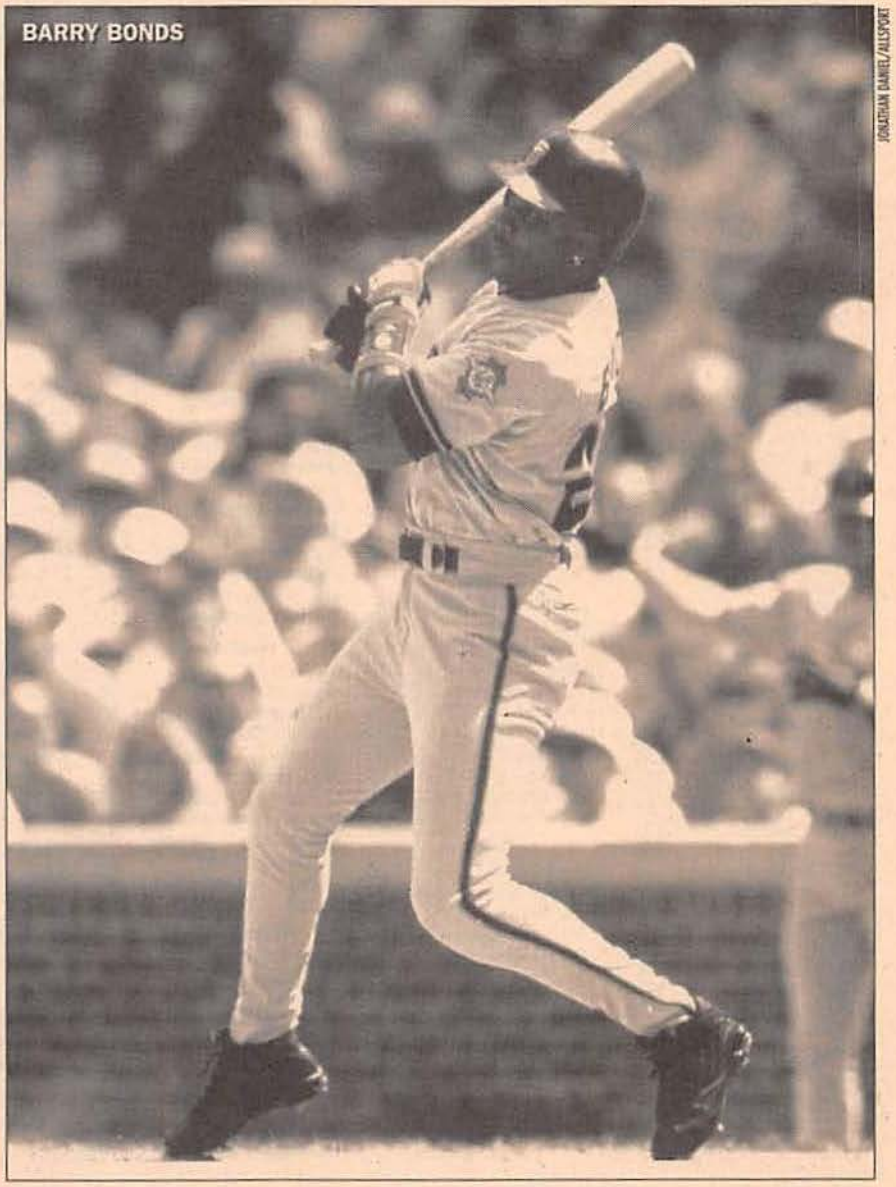
GAME 1: A seven-run seventh off the San Diego bullpen gave the Yankees the opening game of the series, 9-6. **Chuck Knoblauch**'s game-tying three-run home run off San Diego's **Donne Wall** and **Tino Martinez**'s tie-breaking grand slam off **Mark Langston** capped the victory for New York. In a game which was expected to be a fierce pitcher's duel between the Yankees' **David Wells**, who was 3-0 with a 1.90 ERA in the postseason, and the Padres' **Kevin Brown**, 2-1 with a 1.44 ERA, the two clubs combined for five home runs and 15 runs, the most in a World Series opener in 20 years. **Greg Vaughn** contributed a two-run homer in the third inning and a solo homer in the fifth, and **Tony Gwynn** preceded Vaughn with a two-run homer in the fifth, as San Diego held a 5-2 lead heading into the seventh inning. Vaughn's two homers marked the 40th multihomer game in Series history, the first since **Andruw Jones** performed the feat in Game 1 of the 1996 Series. But with two on and one out, Wall was called on in relief and Knoblauch hit his third pitch to tie the score at five. Four batters later, Martinez, 18-for-98 with 1 HR and 4 RBI in the postseason as a Yankee, took a close 2-2 pitch for a ball and then hit a Langston fastball into the upper deck. The Padres would score a run in the eighth off a Knoblauch error, but **Mariano Rivera** came on to record the last four outs for his first save.

GAME 2: **Orlando Hernandez** pitched seven impressive innings in beating San Diego 9-3 for a 2-0 Series lead. The Yankees scored six runs over the first two innings, including a two-run home run by **Bernie Williams**, and added an RBI single by **Ricky Ledee** that chased Padres starter **Andy Ashby** from the game after 2⅔ innings. **Jorge Posada** added a two-run homer in the fifth inning to give the Yanks a 9-1 lead. **Ruben Rivera** contributed a pinch-hit RBI double and later scored in the eighth to cut New York's lead to 9-3, but the Padres couldn't overcome the strong performance by Hernandez. Moved up to start game 2 after a brilliant ALCS performance, Hernandez struck out seven Padres, allowed 6 hits, 3 walks and only 1 run over 7 innings of work.

In one of the game's most captivating seasons, no two men caught the public's eye quite like St. Louis first baseman **Mark McGwire** (70 homers) and Chicago Cubs right fielder **Sammy Sosa** (66). Rarely have two more different men chased a similar prize—**Roger Maris'** record of 61 home runs in a season. McGwire had challenged the mark before breaking it this season. In fact he hit 58 while splitting the season between Oakland and St. Louis in 1997. But who would have figured Sosa, a free-swinger for much of his career, could also break the hallowed mark? Traditional wisdom favored Seattle's **Ken Griffey Jr.**, who hit 57 homers in 1997. But Griffey grew cold in the second half of the season, interestingly after winning the home-run derby at the All-Star Game in Denver. It was an event in which Griffey said he didn't want to participate, claiming it would ruin his swing for the second half of the seasop. Perhaps he was right. He still wound up with 56 homers and is on pace to break Hank Aaron's career mark before he retires. McGwire was the first to break the record, doing so on Sept. 8 at home against Cubs pitcher **Steve Trachsel**. One of the first people to congratulate McGwire after he crossed home plate was his 10-year-old son, **Matt**, who had flown from Southern California in hopes of watching his 34-year-old father break the once unattainable record. The McGwire's father-son relationship was national news as even non-baseball fans couldn't help but cheer for a man who had shunned the spotlight and talk of Maris' record early in the season. Even Sosa applauded McGwire's effort from his spot in the outfield. The two men embraced after the game, each giving the other his trademark salute as the sellout crowd at Busch Stadium roared its approval. In fact, Sosa was roundly cheered every time he came to the plate in the two-game series, treatment not usually afforded a Cub in St. Louis. Sosa went on to break Maris' record on Sept. 13 at Wrigley Field against Milwaukee's **Bronswell Patrick**. The 29-year-old native of the Dominican Republic didn't receive the same attention as McGwire, the more classic slugger who has to shake off criticism that he used a performance-enhancing supplement on his way to immortality. Sosa hit 20 homers in June to kick-start his run to immortality, a fact that was lost during McGwire's magical run. The Brewers were his biggest patsy, allowing 12 homers to Sosa. But a lack of proper fanfare never seemed to daunt the Dominican, who spent much of the season praising McGwire while also downplaying his own record chase. It was the most refreshing story in a season that baseball desperately needed... Baltimore third baseman **Cal Ripken Jr.** ended his remarkable consecutive games streak in typical style. Ripken, whose mark of 2,632 games in a row now ranks as the sport's most unbreakable record, quietly pulled himself out of the lineup before a game against the New York Yankees at Camden Yards on Sept. 20. He was replaced by **Ryan Minor**, certainly the answer to a trivia question someday. As always, Ripken's name was on the lineup card, batting fifth and playing third, 30 minutes before the game. But with two simple words, "It's time," the perennial All-Star let manager **Ray Miller** know the incredible streak was over. Ripken spent a game on the bench for the first time since May 30, 1982, when he was a young Orioles shortstop. Also in typical style, Ripken let the media know after the game that he fully intended to play the next night against the Toronto Blue Jays. Ripken broke **Lou Gehrig**'s record of 2,130 games on Sept. 6, 1995, but was under scrutiny when back problems and his 38-year-old body kept him from being as effective a hitter as he once was. Still, he inspired legions of fans and his record will be the stuff of legends... Jokingly referred to as Interim Commissioner for Life, Milwaukee Brewers owner **Bud Selig** officially took the commissioner's job on July 9. Selig, who had said he didn't want the job on several occasions, was a popular choice among his fellow owners, whose opinion is the only one that matters in such decisions. Selig had already made a nice move by hiring former Toronto Blue Jays executive **Paul Beeston** as Major League Baseball's CEO. Beeston immediately began to work on better relations with the players in anticipation of the next labor contract. Selig, best known as the man who canceled the 1994 World Series, also brought interleague play to the sport, an innovation that packed more fans into parks around the league. One Selig idea that didn't fly was radical realignment that could have had as many as 16 teams changing leagues. Instead, the only team to switch was his Brewers. Selig's daughter, **Wendy Selig-Prieb**, took over as owner of the Brewers... Not everyone at the old ballpark was happy in 1998. Take the World Champion Florida Marlins. Why not? Everyone else did. Seemingly minutes after winning an improbable championship by defeating the Cleveland Indians in seven games, the Marlins were up for sale and ordered to slash payroll from $53 million to $13 million. In fact, by the end of the season, seven of eight Marlins regulars and four-fifths of the pitching rotation were playing elsewhere. Only shortstop **Edgar Renteria** and pitcher **Livan Hernandez** remained. Florida ended up with a shameful 108 losses, the most since Oakland (108) and Toronto (109) suffered in 1979... One of the players who had the equivalent of a layover with the Marlins was former Dodgers catcher **Mike Piazza**, who turned down a lucrative deal from Los Angeles and was jettisoned to Florida with third baseman **Todd Zeile** for outfielders **Bobby Bonilla**, **Jim Eisenreich** and **Gary Sheffield** along with catcher **Charles Johnson**. In true Marlins fashion, Piazza was soon shipped to the New York Mets and Zeile was later traded to the Texas Rangers... Media mogul **Rupert Murdoch** and his Fox news group took control of the Dodgers on March 19 and immediately began shaking up an organization that employed patience and restraint in the hit-and-run world of professional sports. Nomomania ended in Los Angeles when the Dodgers designated pitcher **Hideo Nomo** for assignment on May 31. He was eventually traded to the Mets. Fired on June 21 were manager **Bill Russell** and general manager **Fred Claire**, replaced by Triple-A manager **Glenn Hoffman** and Hall of Fame manager **Tommy Lasorda**, respectively. Lasorda, who turned 71 in September, wasn't long for the job, hiring Orioles assistant GM **Kevin Malone**, 41, to take his place in the last month of the season. Malone's job of returning the Dodgers to their storied tradition won't be easy. The farm system has been decimated by ill-conceived trades and bad scouting and the parent club is loaded with big salaries and questionable attitudes... Lasorda traded prospects **Paul Konerko** and **Dennis Reyes** to Cincinnati for reliever **Jeff Shaw** the day before the All-Star Game. Shaw rang up 25 saves for Los Angeles. He can declare free agency during the off-season



because he was traded during the first year of a new contract... The New York Yankees (114-48) dominated the American League, clinching the East division in a mere 143 games. They even broke the American League record of 111 victories in a season set by the 1954 Indians. Left-hander **David Wells** (18-4) had an outstanding season, topped by his perfect game against the Minnesota Twins on May 17. Yankees right-hander **David Cone** (20-7) won 20 games for the first time in 10 years. Center fielder and free-agent-to-be **Bernie Williams** (.339) won the batting title. Rookie outfielder **Shane Spencer** hit three grand slams in nine games at the end of the season... After months of speculation, dominating left-hander **Randy Johnson** was traded from the Seattle Mariners to the Houston Astros, who gained immediate respectability in a league recently dominated by the Atlanta Braves. The Mariners refused to give Johnson a multi-year deal in spring training and the rumors immediately started to fly. Teams mentioned in trade talks included the Dodgers, Yankees and Indians. But it was the Astros who were willing to part with prospects and pulled off the deal hours before the trading deadline. Johnson, who was unmotivated with a 9-10 record and 4.33 ERA in Seattle, turned up the volume once he landed in Houston and finished at 10-1, 1.28 in his first crack at the National League. His winning ways translated into a division title for Houston... The Boston Red Sox held off a late charge by the Toronto Blue Jays to gain the American League wild-card spot. First baseman **Mo Vaughn**, outspoken and unhappy with his contract negotiations, still finished second in the league with a .337 average... The Cubs and Giants must have said, "Let's play 163," since the teams were tied at the end of the season. In only the second one-game playoff in NL history, Chicago advanced to the postseason with a 5-3 victory at Wrigley Field. **Gary Gaetti**, 40, hit a key homer for the Cubs and Trachsel pitched six innings of no-hit ball... Cubs rookie **Kerry Wood** certainly lived up to the hype early in his career, striking out 20 Houston Astros in a game at Wrigley on May 6. Wood sat out most of September with arm problems... Beloved Cubs announcer **Harry Caray** died not long before spring training after collapsing at a California restaurant while with his wife. The Cubs dedicated their season to Caray and even had "guest conductors" sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" in the middle of the seventh inning all season at Wrigley... Another former Cubs announcer, Hall of Famer **Jack Brickhouse**, also died during the season... Thanks in part to **Greg Vaughn's** 50 home runs, the San Diego Padres easily won the NL West by 9½ games over the Giants. Padres reliever **Trevor Hoffman** converted on 53 of 54 save opportunities... Texas defeated Anaheim five times in the last 11 days of the season to win the AL West... The Arizona Diamondbacks and Tampa Bay Devil Rays entered the league and predictably finished last in their divisions. Arizona further shook up the game's salary structure by signing 30-something shortstop **Jay Bell** and third baseman **Matt Williams** to huge, multi-year contracts. Team owner **Jerry Colangelo** even gave catcher **Jorge Fabregas** his requested salary despite winning his arbitration case against Fabregas. The Devil Rays started their organization off in a controversial stadium that required several ground rules changes after fly balls that would have been home runs hit a scaffolding above the playing field... Giants left fielder **Barry Bonds** entered the 400 homer, 400 stolen bases club, further assuring his status as a first-ballot Hall of Famer... Seattle Mariners phenom **Alex Rodriguez** broke **Rico Petrocelli**'s record for home runs in a season by a shortstop. Rodriguez did so with his 41st homer of the season Sept. 22 against Oakland... Atlanta's pitching staff was excellent again. **Tom Glavine** (20-6, 2.47 ERA), **Greg Maddux** (18-9, 2.22) and **John Smoltz** (17-3, 2.90) led the Braves to the best record in the NL. Rookies **Kevin Milwood** (17-8, 4.08) and **Kerry Ligtenberg** (30 saves, 2.71 ERA) made immediate impressions. Ligtenberg filled in as closer after **Mark Wohlers** (8 saves, 10.18) lost his touch and spent much of the season struggling in the minor leagues... Colorado Rockies right fielder **Larry Walker** (.363) won the NL batting crown the year after winning the league's MVP award. Teammates **Dante Bichette** (.331) and **Vinny Castilla** (.319) also finished in the top 10 in the batting race. The Rockies still finished 77-85 and manager **Don Baylor** was fired the day after the season ended... Baltimore Orioles outfielder **Eric Davis** showed he's fully recovered from colon cancer by ripping through a 34-game hitting streak. The disease sidelined him for much of the 1997 season... New York Mets first baseman **John Olerud** tied the National League record by reaching base 15 consecutive times in September... Texas outfielder **Juan Gonzalez** had 101 RBIs at the All-Star break, sparking talk of a possible run as Hack Wilson's record of 192. But Gonzalez slowed his pace in the second half, failing to drive in a run in nine consecutive games, and wound up with 157, second to Sosa's 158... Speaking of RBIs, Griffey joined **Babe Ruth** and **Lou Gehrig** as the only major leaguers to drive in 140 or more runs for three consecutive seasons... Indians outfielder **Manny Ramirez** smacked eight home runs in five games from Sept. 15-19... Toronto Blue Jays right-hander **Roger Clemens** (20-6) won 15 consecutive decisions after losing to the Indians on May 29... Another Blue Jays pitcher, touted rookie **Roy Halladay**, threw 8⅔ innings of no-hit ball against Detroit in Toronto's final game... Twins designated hitter **Paul Molitor** may have played his final game Sept. 27. He went 2-for-4 against Cleveland and stands at 3,319 career hits... Chicago White Sox left fielder **Albert Belle** had an incredible season: .328, 49 homers, 152 RBI. All that after struggling for the first month of the season... Two notable fights—Baltimore/ New York Yankees and Anaheim/Kansas City—put a temporary damper on a great season... Cincinnati put together the game's first all-brother infield on closing day: **Stephen Larkin** at first, **Bret Boone** at second, **Barry Larkin** at shortstop and **Aaron Boone** at third... A's left fielder Rickey Henderson led the majors with 66 stolen bases at age 39... The victim of lofty expectations, manager **Buddy Bell** was fired by the Detroit Tigers during the season... **Don Sutton**, a 300-game winner in the majors, was elected to the Hall of Fame in his second appearance on the ballot... Blue Jays designated hitter **Jose Canseco** bounced back from a bad season to smack 46 homers and steal 29 bases. He must have been inspired by former "Bash Brother" McGwire.



BARRY BONDS

JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

FINAL 1998 STANDINGS

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	Home	Away	Intr
x-New York	114	48	.704	—	62-19	52-29	13-3
y-Boston	92	70	.568	22	51-30	41-40	9-7
Toronto	88	74	.543	26	51-30	37-44	9-7
Baltimore	79	83	.488	35	42-39	37-44	5-11
Tampa Bay	63	99	.389	51	33-48	30-51	5-11
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**Home**	**Away**	**Intr**
x-Cleveland	89	73	.549	—	46-35	43-38	10-6
Chicago	80	82	.494	9	44-37	36-45	7-9
Kansas City	72	89	.447	16½	29-51	43-38	9-7
Minnesota	70	92	.432	19	35-46	35-46	7-9
Detroit	65	97	.401	24	32-49	33-48	7-9
West Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**Home**	**Away**	**Intr**
x-Texas	88	74	.543	—	49-33	39-41	8-8
Anaheim	85	77	.525	3	42-39	43-38	10-6
Seattle	76	85	.472	11½	42-38	34-47	7-9
Oakland	74	88	.457	14	39-42	35-46	8-8

(x-clinched division title; y-clinched wild card)

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	Home	Away	Intr
x-Atlanta	106	56	.654	—	56-25	50-31	9-7
New York	88	74	.543	18	47-34	41-40	9-7
Philadelphia	75	87	.463	31	40-41	35-46	7-9
Montreal	65	97	.401	41	39-42	26-55	6-10
Florida	54	104	.333	52	31-50	23-58	8-8
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**Home**	**Away**	**Intr**
x-Houston	102	60	.630	—	55-26	47-34	10-4
y-Chicago	90	73	.552	12½	51-31	39-42	5-8
St. Louis	83	79	.512	19	48-34	35-45	4-9
Cincinnati	77	85	.475	25	40-42	37-43	7-6
Milwaukee	74	88	.457	28	38-43	36-45	8-6
Pittsburgh	69	93	.426	33	40-40	29-53	6-7
West Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**Home**	**Away**	**Intr**
x-San Diego	98	64	.605	—	54-27	44-37	6-7
San Francisco	89	74	.546	9½	49-32	40-42	8-5
Los Angeles	83	79	.512	15	48-33	35-46	8-5
Colorado	77	85	.475	21	42-39	35-46	4-8
Arizona	65	97	.401	33	34-47	31-50	5-8

LEAGUE LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Batting

B. Williams, New York	.339
M. Vaughn, Boston	.337
Belle, Chicago	.328
E. Davis, Baltimore	.327
Jeter, New York	.324
Garciaparra, Boston	.323
E. Martinez, Seattle	.322
I. Rodriguez, Texas	.321
T. Fernandez, Toronto	.321
J. Gonzalez, Texas	.318

Home runs

Griffey, Seattle	56
Belle, Chicago	49
Canseco, Toronto	46
J. Gonzalez, Texas	45
M. Ramirez, Cleveland	45
Palmeiro, Baltimore	43
A. Rodriguez, Seattle	42
M. Vaughn, Boston	40
Delgado, Toronto	38
Garciaparra, Boston	35
S. Green, Toronto	35

Runs batted in

J. Gonzalez, Texas	157
Belle, Chicago	152
Griffey, Seattle	146
M. Ramirez, Cleveland	145
A. Rodriguez, Seattle	124
T. Martinez, New York	123
Garciaparra, Boston	122
Palmeiro, Baltimore	121
Palmer, Kansas City	119
O'Neill, New York	116

Hits

A. Rodriguez, Seattle	213
M. Vaughn, Boston	205
Jeter, New York	203
Belle, Chicago	200
Garciaparra, Boston	195
J. Gonzalez, Texas	193
Offerman, Kansas City	191
O'Neill, New York	191
I. Rodriguez, Texas	186
Edmonds, Anaheim	184

Runs

Jeter, New York	127
Durham, Chicago	126
A. Rodriguez, Seattle	123
Griffey, Seattle	120
Knoblauch, New York	117
Edmonds, Anaheim	115
Belle, Chicago	113
John Valentin, Boston	113
Garciaparra, Boston	111
Cora, Cleveland	111

Doubles

J. Gonzalez, Texas	50
Belle, Chicago	48
E. Martinez, Seattle	47
John Valentin, Boston	44
Delgado, Toronto	43
Edmonds, Anaheim	42
G. Anderson, Anaheim	41
Grieve, Oakland	41
T. Walker, Minnesota	41
W. Clark, Texas	41

Triples

Offerman, Kansas City	13
Damon, Kansas City	10
Winn, Tampa Bay	9
Jeter, New York	8
Durham, Chicago	8
O'Leary, Boston	8
Garciaparra, Boston	8
McCracken, Tampa Bay	7
G. Anderson, Anaheim	7

Stolen bases

Ri. Henderson, Oakland	66
Lofton, Cleveland	54
S. Stewart, Toronto	51
A. Rodriguez, Seattle	46
Offerman, Kansas City	45
B. Hunter, Detroit	42
T. Goodwin, Texas	38
O. Nixon, Minnesota	37
Vizquel, Cleveland	37
Durham, Chicago	36

ERA (Minimum 162 IP)

Clemens, Toronto	2.65
P. Martinez, Boston	2.89
Rogers, Oakland	3.17
C. Finley, Anaheim	3.39
Wells, New York	3.49
Mussina, Baltimore	3.49
Moyer, Seattle	3.53
Cone, New York	3.55
Arrojo, Tampa Bay	3.56
Colon, Cleveland	3.71

Wins

Helling, Texas	20
Clemens, Toronto	20
Cone, New York	20
P. Martinez, Boston	19
Sele, Texas	19
Wells, New York	18
Wakefield, Boston	17
Erickson, Baltimore	16
Pettitte, New York	16
Rogers, Oakland	16

Strikeouts

Clemens, Toronto	271
P. Martinez, Boston	251
R. Johnson, Seattle	213
C. Finley, Anaheim	212
Cone, New York	209
Erickson, Baltimore	186
Fassero, Seattle	176
Mussina, Baltimore	175
Saunders, Tampa Bay	172
J. Guzman, Tor.-Balt.	168

Saves

Gordon, Boston	46
Percival, Anaheim	42
Wetteland, Texas	42
M. Jackson, Cleveland	40
Aguilera, Minnesota	38
Montgomery, Kans. City	36
M. Rivera, New York	36
B. Taylor, Oakland	33
R. Myers, Toronto	28
T. Jones, Detroit	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Batting

L. Walker, Colorado	.363
Olerud, New York	.354
Bichette, Colorado	.331
Piazza, New York	.328
Kendall, Pittsburgh	.327
Biggio, Houston	.325
V. Guerrero, Montreal	.324
Cirillo, Milwaukee	.321
Gwynn, San Diego	.321
Castilla, Colorado	.319

Home runs

McGwire, St. Louis	70
Sosa, Chicago	66
G. Vaughn, San Diego	50
Castilla, Colorado	46
Galarraga, Atlanta	44
Alou, Houston	38
V. Guerrero, Montreal	38
Burnitz, Milwaukee	38
Bonds, San Francisco	37
J. Lopez, Atlanta	34
Bagwell, Houston	34
C. Jones, Atlanta	34

Runs batted in

Sosa, Chicago	158
McGwire, St. Louis	147
Castilla, Colorado	144
Kent, San Francisco	128
Burnitz, Milwaukee	125
Alou, Houston	124
Bichette, Colorado	122
Bonds, San Francisco	122
Galarraga, Atlanta	121
G. Vaughn, San Diego	119

Hits

Bichette, Colorado	219
Biggio, Houston	210
Castilla, Colorado	206
V. Guerrero, Montreal	202
D. Bell, Houston	198
Sosa, Chicago	198
Vina, Milwaukee	198
Olerud, New York	197
Cirillo, Milwaukee	194
Glanville, Philadelphia	189

Runs

Sosa, Chicago	134
McGwire, St. Louis	130
Bagwell, Houston	124
Biggio, Houston	123
C. Jones, Atlanta	123
Bonds, San Francisco	120
Rolen, Philadelphia	120
L. Walker, Colorado	113
G. Vaughn, San Diego	112
D. Bell, Houston	111

Doubles

Biggio, Houston	51
D. Young, Cincinnati	48
Bichette, Colorado	48
L. Walker, Colorado	46
Rolen, Philadelphia	45
Floyd, Florida	45
Bonds, San Francisco	44
Fullmer, Montreal	44
D. Bell, Houston	41
K. Young, Pittsburgh	40
S. Finley, San Diego	40

Triples

Dellucci, Arizona	12
B. Larkin, Cincinnati	10
W. Guerrero, Montreal	9
N. Perez, Colorado	9
A. Jones, Atlanta	8
K. Garcia, Arizona	8
DeShields, St. Louis	8
10 tied with 7	

Stolen bases

Womack, Pittsburgh	58
Biggio, Houston	50
E. Young, Los Angeles	42
Renteria, Florida	41
Bonds, San Francisco	28
A. Jones, Atlanta	27
Floyd, Florida	27
Kendall, Pittsburgh	26
B. Larkin, Cincinnati	26
DeShields, St. Louis	26
Lankford, St. Louis	26

ERA (Minimum 162 IP)

G. Maddux, Atlanta	2.22
K. Brown, San Diego	2.38
A. Leiter, New York	2.47
Glavine, Atlanta	2.47
Daal, Arizona	2.88
Smoltz, Atlanta	2.90
Hermanson, Montreal	3.13
Harnisch, Cincinnati	3.14
Schilling, Philadelphia	3.25
Cordova, Pittsburgh	3.31

Wins

Glavine, Atlanta	20
Tapani, Chicago	19
S. Reynolds, Houston	19
G. Maddux, Atlanta	18
K. Brown, San Diego	18
Smoltz, Atlanta	17
A. Leiter, New York	17
Millwood, Atlanta	17
Ashby, San Diego	17
R. Reed, New York	16
Lima, Houston	16
Rueter, San Francisco	16
Neagle, Atlanta	16

Strikeouts

Schilling, Philadelphia	300
K. Brown, San Diego	257
K. Wood, Chicago	233
S. Reynolds, Houston	209
G. Maddux, Atlanta	204
Park, Los Angeles	191
A. Leiter, New York	174
Smoltz, Atlanta	173
Astacio, Colorado	170
Lima, Houston	169

Saves

Hoffman, San Diego	53
Beck, Chicago	51
Shaw, Cinc.-L.A.	48
Nen, San Francisco	40
Franco, New York	38
Urbina, Montreal	34
B. Wagner, Houston	30
Ligtenberg, Atlanta	30
Olson, Arizona	30
Wickman, Milwaukee	25

YEAR IN REVIEW

PGA TOUR

So much for **Tiger Woods** winning every tournament. Nevertheless, he was still as good as anyone else on the PGA Tour, but didn't have a major championship to show for it. Instead, neighbor and good friend **Mark O'Meara** won two majors after years of never having won one.

THE MASTERS

at Augusta National, Augusta, Ga. (April 9-12)

Mark O'Meara's terrific run began at Augusta National when he won first major, erasing 56 tournaments of frustration. O'Meara, 41, said he had begun to wonder if he would ever capture a major, and was considered by many to be the best player who never won one. And what a way to win. He drained a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to beat **Fred Couples** and **David Duval** by a stroke each. The victory gave him $576,000 and put him over $9 million in career earnings. O'Meara, who had a 9-under-par 279 and shot a 67 on the final day, became the second consecutive player in his neighborhood to win the Masters. **Tiger Woods**, the 1997 champion, lives in the same Isleworth community in Orlando, Fla.

Results

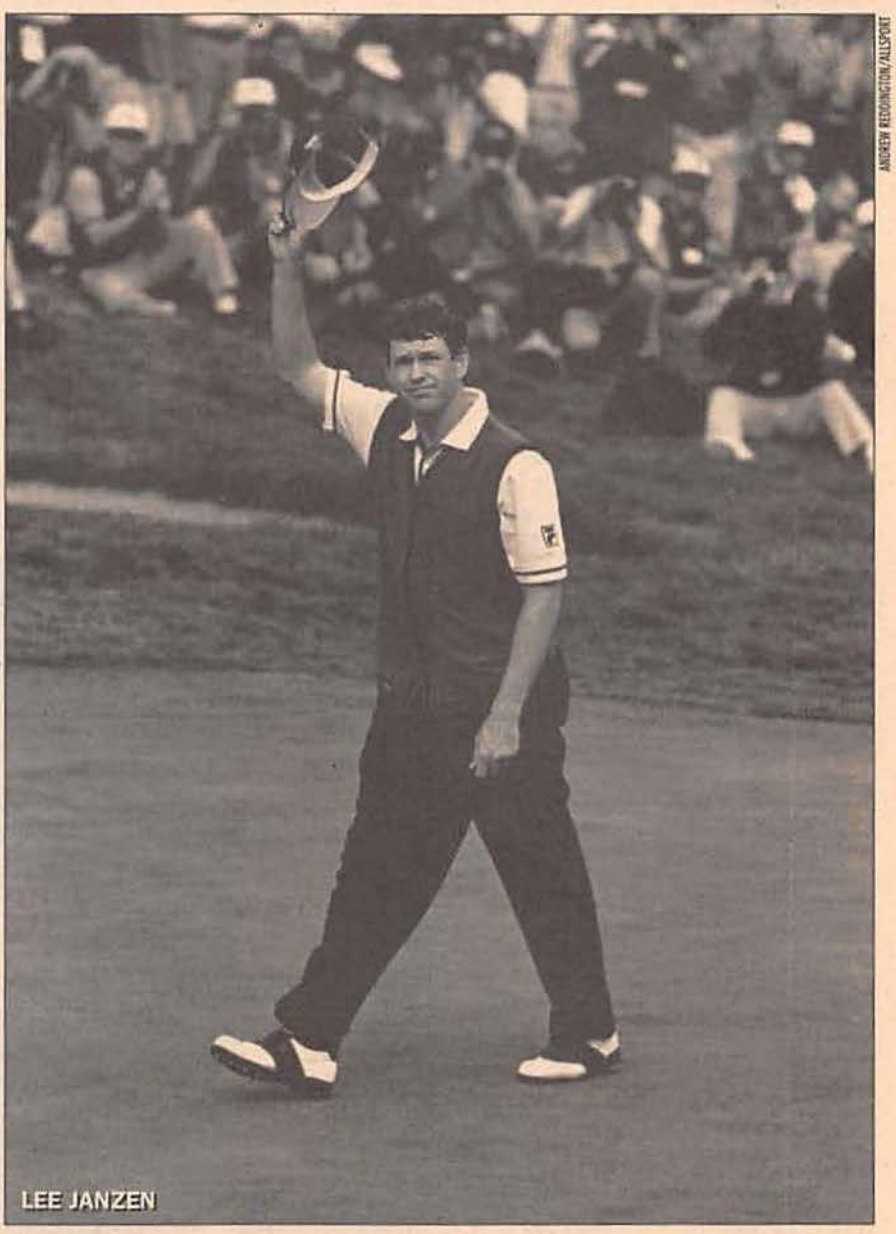
Mark O'Meara, $576,000	74-70-68-67-279
Fred Couples, $281,600	69-70-71-70-280
David Duval, $281,600	71-68-74-67-280
Jim Furyk, $153,600	76-70-67-68-281
Paul Azinger, $128,000	71-72-69-70-282
Jack Nicklaus, $111,200	73-72-70-68-283
David Toms, $111,200	75-72-72-64-283
Darren Clarke, $89,600	76-73-67-69-285
Tiger Woods, $89,600	71-72-72-70-285
Justin Leonard, $89,600	74-73-69-69-285
Colin Montgomerie, $89,600	71-75-69-70-285
Jose Maria Olazabal, $64,800	70-73-71-72-286
Jay Haas, $64,800	72-71-71-72-286
Per-Ulrik Johansson, $64,800	74-75-67-70-286
Phil Mickelson, $64,800	74-69-69-74-286
Scott Hoch, $48,000	70-71-73-73-287
Ernie Els, $48,000	75-70-70-72-287
Ian Woosnam, $48,000	74-71-72-70-287
Scott McCarron, $48,000	73-71-72-71-287
Mark Calcavecchia, $48,000	74-74-69-70-287
a-Matt Kuchar	72-76-68-72-288
Willie Wood, $38,400	74-74-70-70-288
Jeff Maggert, $33,280	72-73-72-72-289
Stewart Cink, $33,280	74-76-69-70-289
John Huston, $33,280	77-71-70-71-289
David Frost, $26,133	72-73-74-71-290
Brad Faxon, $26,133	73-74-71-72-290
Steve Jones, $26,133	75-70-75-70-290
Michael Bradley, $23,680	73-74-72-72-291
Steve Elkington, $22,720	75-75-71-71-292
Jesper Parnevik, $21,280	75-73-73-72-293
Andrew Magee, $21,280	74-72-74-73-293
Fuzzy Zoeller, $18,112	71-74-75-74-294
John Daly, $18,112	71-78-75-70-294
Lee Janzen, $18,112	76-74-72-72-294
Davis Love III, $18,112	74-75-67-78-294
Tom Kite, $15,680	73-74-74-74-295
Paul Stankowski, $14,720	70-80-72-74-296
Bernhard Langer, $14,720	75-73-74-74-296
Corey Pavin, $13,440	73-77-72-75-297
Craig Stadler, $13,440	79-68-73-77-297
John Cook, $12,480	75-73-74-76-298
Lee Westwood, $11,840	76-74-72-78-300
a-Joel Kribel	74-76-76-75-301
Gary Player, $11,200	77-72-78-75-302

a-denotes amateur

U.S. OPEN

at Olympic Club, San Francisco (June 19-22)

True to U.S. Open history, this year's version at the Olympic Club in San Francisco was a killer to players' scores and egos. **Lee Janzen** came from seven strokes down on the final day, and his even-par total was enough to win. He beat **Payne Stewart**, who entered the day with a five-shot lead over Janzen, in the largest rally at the Open in 25 years. Both players also went head-to-head at the 1993 U.S. Open, and Janzen emerged a two-shot winner in that tournament, too. At Olympic, Janzen played the last 15 holes at 4-under-par, but still had to watch as Stewart stood over a 20-foot birdie on No. 18 that would've created an 18-hole playoff the next day. Stewart's putt slid about 2 inches by the hole, and Janzen wept before embracing his wife, Beverly.



ANDREW REDINGTON/ALLSPORT

LEE JANZEN

Results

Lee Janzen, $535,000	73-66-73-68-280
Payne Stewart, $315,000	66-71-70-74-281
Bob Tway, $201,730	68-70-73-73-284
Nick Price, $140,597	73-68-71-73-285
Steve Stricker, $107,392	73-71-69-73-286
Tom Lehman, $107,392	68-75-68-75-286
David Duval, $83,794	72-74-70-71-287
Lee Westwood, $83,794	72-74-70-71-287
Jeff Maggert, $83,794	69-69-75-74-287
Jeff Sluman, $64,490	72-74-74-68-288
Phil Mickelson, $64,490	71-73-74-70-288
Stuart Appleby, $64,490	73-74-70-71-288
Stewart Cink, $64,490	73-68-73-74-288
Paul Azinger, $52,214	75-72-77-65-289
Jesper Parnevik, $52,214	69-74-76-70-289
a-Matt Kuchar	70-69-76-74-289
Jim Furyk, $52,214	74-73-68-74-289
Colin Montgomerie, $41,883	70-74-77-69-290
Loren Roberts, $41,883	71-76-71-72-290
Frank Lickliter II, $41,883	73-71-72-74-290
Jose Maria Olazabal, $41,883	68-77-71-74-290
Tiger Woods, $41,883	74-72-71-73-290
Casey Martin, $34,043	74-71-74-72-291
Glen Day, $34,043	73-72-71-75-291
D.A. Weibring, $25,640	72-72-75-73-292
Per-Ulrik Johansson, $25,640	71-75-73-73-292
Eduardo Romero, $25,640	72-70-76-74-292
Chris Perry, $25,640	74-71-72-75-292
Vijay Singh, $25,640	73-72-73-74-292
Thomas Bjorn, $25,640	72-75-70-75-292
Mark Carnevale, $25,640	67-73-74-78-292
Mark O'Meara, $18,372	70-76-78-69-293
Padraig Harrington, $18,372	73-72-76-72-293
Bruce Zabriski, $18,372	74-71-74-74-293
Steve Pate, $18,372	72-75-73-73-293
John Huston, $18,372	73-72-72-76-293
Joe Durant, $18,372	68-73-76-76-293
Chris DiMarco, $18,372	71-71-74-77-293
Lee Porter, $18,372	72-67-76-78-293

Justin Leonard, $15,155	71-75-77-71-294
Scott McCarron, $15,155	72-73-77-72-294
Frank Nobilo, $15,155	76-67-76-75-294
Darren Clarke, $12,537	74-72-77-72-295
Joey Sindelar, $12,537	71-75-75-74-295
Tom Kite, $12,537	70-75-76-74-295
Joe Acosta, Jr. $12,537	73-72-76-74-295
Olin Browne, $12,537	70-73-77-75-295
Jack Nicklaus, $12,537	73-74-73-75-295
Ernie Els, $9,711	75-70-75-76-296
Michael Reid, $9,711	76-70-73-77-296
Brad Faxon, $9,711	73-68-76-79-296
Scott Verplank, $9,711	74-72-73-77-296
Fred Couples, $8,531	72-75-79-71-297
Tim Herron, $8,531	75-72-77-73-297
Jim Johnston, $8,531	74-73-79-71-297
John Daly, $8,531	69-75-75-78-297
Mark Brooks, $8,030	75-71-76-76-298
Scott Simpson, $7,844	72-71-78-79-300
Rocky Walcher, $7,696	77-70-77-79-303
Tom Sipula, $7,549	75-71-78-81-305

a-denotes amateur

BRITISH OPEN

at Royal Birkdale Golf Club, Southport, England (July 17-20)

Like the U.S. Open, the British Open was brutal on scores. Like the Masters, **Mark O'Meara** emerged the winner at Royal Birkdale in Southport, England. He won a four-hole playoff against **Brian Watts**, an American who has been playing in Japan. After both players ended 72 holes with even-par 280s, O'Meara birdied No. 15 in the playoff and parred the rest of the way to beat Watts by two shots. Just to get to the playoff, Watts made a remarkable sand save on No. 18. **Tiger Woods** almost forced his way in, too, posting birdies on three of the last four holes to get to 1-over-par.

Results

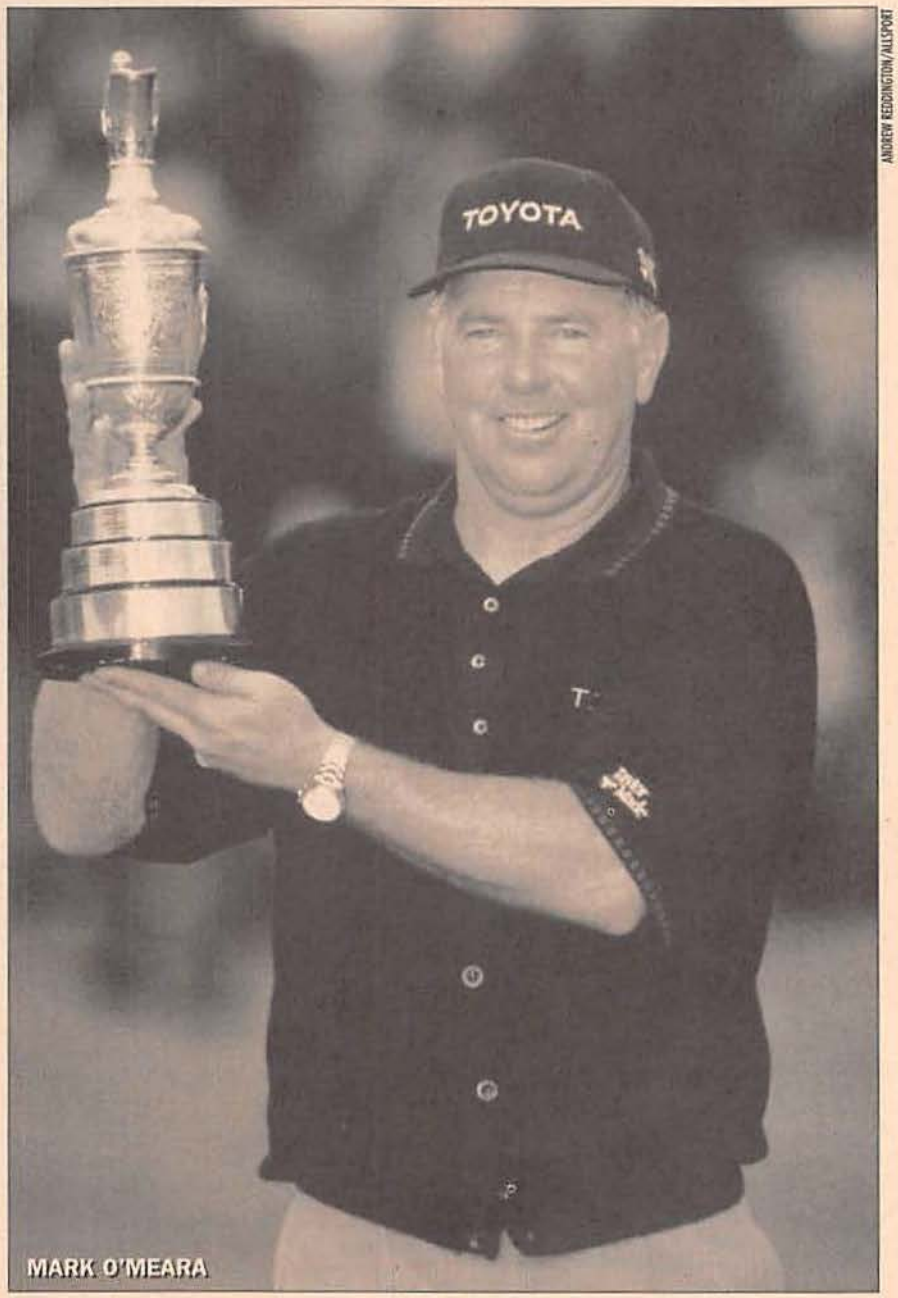
x-Mark O'Meara, $520,000	72-68-72-68-280
Brian Watts, $329,000	68-69-73-70-280
Tiger Woods, $236,250	65-73-77-66-281
Jesper Parnevik, $134,167	68-72-72-70-282
Jim Furyk, $134,167	70-70-72-70-282
a-Justin Rose	72-66-75-69-282
Raymond Russell, $134,167	68-73-75-66-282
Davis Love III, $86,625	67-73-77-68-285
Costantino Rocca, $71,488	72-74-70-70-286
Thomas Bjorn, $71,488	68-71-76-71-286
Brad Faxon, $58,333	67-74-74-72-287
David Duval, $58,333	70-71-75-71-287
John Huston, $58,333	65-77-73-72-287
Gordon Brand Jr., $50,750	71-70-76-71-288
Greg Turner, $41,388	68-75-75-71-289
Des Smyth, $41,388	74-69-75-71-289
Jose-Maria Olazabal, $41,388	73-72-75-69-289
Peter Baker, $41,388	69-72-77-71-289
Mark James, $30,135	71-74-74-71-290
Sandy Lyle, $30,135	71-72-75-72-290
Curtis Strange, $30,135	73-73-74-70-290
Vijay Singh, $30,135	67-74-78-71-290
Robert Allenby, $30,135	67-76-78-69-290
Peter O'Malley, $21,840	71-71-78-71-291
Lee Janzen, $21,840	72-69-80-70-291
Sam Torrance, $21,840	69-77-75-70-291
Stephen Ames, $21,840	68-72-79-72-291
Bob Estes, $21,840	72-70-76-73-291
Loren Roberts, $17,553	66-76-76-74-292
Shigeki Maruyama, $17,553	70-73-75-74-292
Ernie Els, $17,553	72-74-74-72-292
a-Sergio Garcia	69-75-76-72-292
Scott Dunlap, $17,553	72-69-80-71-292
Nick Price, $17,553	66-72-82-72-292
Sven Struver, $15,575	75-70-80-68-293
Santiago Luna, $15,575	70-72-80-71-293
Mark Calcavecchia, $15,575	69-77-73-74-293
Philip Walton, $14,613	68-76-74-76-294
Joakim Haeggman, $14,613	71-74-78-71-294
Steen Tinning, $14,613	69-76-77-72-294
Tom Kite, $14,613	72-69-79-74-294
Patrik Sjoland, $14,613	72-72-77-73-294
Naomichi Ozaki, $14,613	72-73-76-73-294
David Carter, $13,267	71-75-76-73-295
Payne Stewart, $13,267	71-71-78-75-295
David Howell, $13,267	68-77-79-71-295
Rodger Davis, $13,267	76-70-78-71-295
David Frost, $13,267	72-73-78-72-295
Nick Faldo, $13,267	72-73-75-75-295
Andrew Coltart, $13,267	68-77-75-75-295
Katsuyoshi Tomori, $13,267	75-71-70-79-295
Frankie Minoza, $12,005	69-76-76-76-296
Steve Stricker, $12,005	70-72-80-74-296
Larry Mize, $12,005	70-75-79-72-296
Brandt Jobe, $12,005	70-73-82-71-296
Billy Mayfair, $12,005	72-73-77-74-296
Ian Woosnam, $10,962	72-74-76-75-297
Steve Jones, $10,962	73-72-79-73-297
Trevor Dodds, $10,962	73-71-81-72-297
Ignacio Garrido, $10,962	71-74-80-72-297
Justin Leonard, $10,962	73-73-82-69-297
Greg Chalmers, $10,692	71-75-77-74-297
Eduardo Romero, $10,692	71-70-79-77-297
Lee Westwood, $10,456	71-71-78-78-298
Carlos Franco, $10,456	71-73-76-78-298
Michael Long, $10,150	70-74-78-77-299
a-Didier de Vooght	70-76-80-73-299
Mark Brooks, $10,150	71-73-75-80-299
Fred Couples, $10,150	66-74-78-81-299
Andrew Clapp, $9,888	72-74-81-73-300
Gary Evans, $9,800	69-74-84-74-301
Bob May, $9,800	70-73-85-75-303
Andrew McLardy, $9,800	72-74-80-78-304
Fredrik Jacobson, $9,800	67-78-81-79-305
Kazuhiko Hosokawa, $9,800	72-73-81-80-306
Robert Giles, $9,800	72-74-83-78-307
Phil Mickelson, $9,800	71-74-85-78-308
Andrew Oldcorn, $9,800	75-71-84-79-309
Dudley Hart, $9,800	73-72-85-80-310

x-won in four hole playoff; a-denotes amateur

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

at Sahalee Country Club, Redmond, Wash. (Aug. 14-17)

The hardest-working man in golf finally pulled of a major championship. **Vijay Singh** shot a final-day 2-under-par 689 for a 9-under 271 total to beat **Steve Stricker** by two shots and **Steve Elkington** by three at Sahalee Country Club in Redmond, Wash. **Mark O'Meara** was hoping to become the first player since **Ben Hogan** in 1953 to win three majors in one year, but he bogeyed holes Nos. 6-8 in the final round and finished tied for fourth five strokes behind Singh. As for Singh, his final round will be remembered mostly for the shot at No. 11 that bounced off a tree and onto the front of the green and turned into a two-putt birdie. It was a shot reminiscent of **Lee Janzen**'s ball that fell out of a true at this year's U.S. Open. Singh became the 10th player in the last 11 years to



MARK O'MEARA

ANDREW REDDINGTON/ALLSPORT

make his first major victory the PGA Championship.

Results

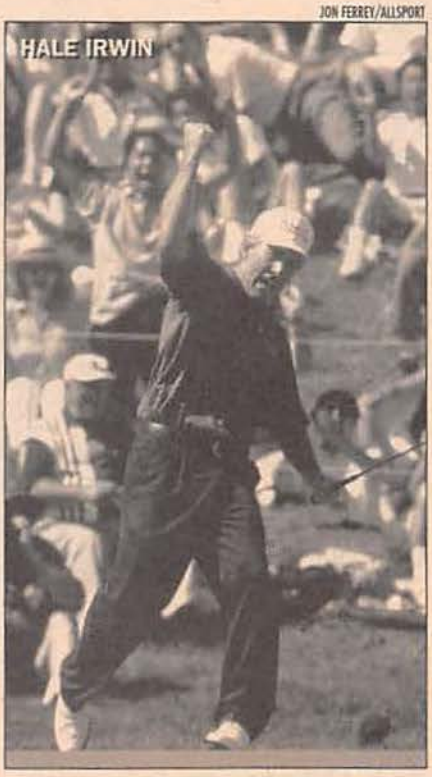
Vijay Singh, $540,000	70-66-67-68-271
Steve Stricker, $324,000	69-68-66-70-273
Steve Elkington, $204,000	69-69-69-74-274
Mark O'Meara, $118,000	69-70-69-68-276
Frank Lickliter, $118,000	68-71-69-68-276
Nick Price, $118,000	70-73-68-65-276
Billy Mayfair, $89,500	73-67-67-70-277
Davis Love III, $89,500	70-68-69-70-277
John Cook, $80,000	71-68-70-69-278
Kenny Perry, $69,000	69-72-70-68-279
Tiger Woods, $69,000	66-72-70-71-279
Skip Kendall, $69,000	72-68-68-71-279
John Huston, $46,000	70-71-68-71-280
Robert Allenby, $46,000	72-68-69-71-280
Steve Flesch, $46,000	75-69-67-69-280
Fred Couples, $46,000	74-71-67-68-280
Bob Tway, $46,000	69-76-67-68-280
Paul Azinger, $46,000	68-73-70-69-280
Bill Glasson, $46,000	68-74-69-69-280
Brad Faxon, $46,000	70-68-74-68-280
Andrew Magee, $32,000	70-68-72-71-281
Ernie Els, $32,000	72-72-71-68-281
Scott Gump, $26,000	68-69-72-73-282
Per-Ulrik Johansson, $26,000	69-74-71-68-282
Fred Funk, $26,000	70-71-71-70-282
Greg Kraft, $26,000	71-73-65-73-282
Hal Sutton, $20,500	72-68-72-71-283
Jeff Sluman, $20,500	71-73-70-69-283
Glen Day, $17,100	68-71-75-70-284
Tom Lehman, $17,100	71-71-70-72-284
Ian Woosnam, $17,100	70-75-67-72-284
Lee Rinker, $17,100	70-70-71-73-284
Scott Hoch, $17,100	72-69-70-73-284
Russ Cochran, $14,250	69-70-71-75-285
Bob Estes, $14,250	68-76-69-72-285
Paul Goydos, $14,250	70-70-72-73-285
Phil Mickelson, $14,250	70-70-78-67-285
Craig Stadler, $12,750	69-74-71-72-286
Duffy Waldorf, $12,750	74-70-70-72-286
Joey Sindelar, $11,250	71-71-75-70-287
Jay Haas, $11,250	72-72-73-69-287
Joe Durant, $11,250	75-68-74-70-287
Carlos Franco, $11,250	71-70-73-73-287
P.H. Horgan III, $7,990	71-71-72-74-288
Mark Calcavecchia, $7,990	70-73-71-74-288
Dudley Hart, $7,990	70-75-69-74-288
Kevin Sutherland, $7,990	74-71-71-72-288
Colin Montgomerie, $7,990	70-67-77-74-288
Joe Ozaki, $7,990	73-71-75-69-288
Jeff Maggert, $7,990	71-73-73-71-288
Steve Lowery, $7,990	76-69-72-71-288
David Ogrin, $7,990	73-72-71-72-288
Billy Andrade, $7,990	68-77-68-75-288
Scott Verplank, $6,550	71-71-71-76-289
Nick Faldo, $6,550	73-71-72-73-289
Jim Carter, $6,175	71-73-72-74-290
Mark Brooks, $6,175	72-73-72-73-290
Brian Watts, $6,175	72-73-72-73-290
Ted Tryba, $6,175	70-74-76-70-290
David Frost, $6,175	70-69-76-75-290
Jay Don Blake, $6,175	70-72-73-75-290
Olin Browne, $5,900	73-71-71-76-291
Trevor Dodds, $5,900	69-75-75-72-291
Tom Byrum, $5,900	72-71-74-74-291
Robert Karlsson, $5,750	71-73-75-73-292
Shigeki Maruyama, $5,750	68-77-73-74-292
Loren Roberts, $5,750	72-71-74-75-292
Stephen Leaney, $5,650	72-70-72-79-293
Andrew Coltart, $5,600	70-75-75-74-294
David Sutherland, $5,550	77-68-77-73-295
Brent Geiberger, $5,450	73-70-79-74-296
Craig Parry, $5,450	70-75-74-77-296
Brad Fabel, $5,450	73-72-73-78-296
Chris Perry, $5,350	73-71-75-78-297
Tim Herron, $5,300	73-70-79-76-298

a-denotes amateur

LPGA TOUR

The women had their own **Tiger Woods** this year, South Korean **Se Ri Pak**. In fact, she had a better year. Pak won two major championships, and followed up her second title with two more victories over the next three weeks. But she didn't have the best overall year. That belonged to **Annika Sorenstam**. Although Sorenstam didn't win a major championship, she was consistently the best player on tour for the third time in four years.

JON FERREY/ALLSPORT



DINAH SHORE

The drama was as much whether **Pat Hurst** would take the traditional dive into the lake next to the 18th green as to whether she would win her first major championship. She won the title, her second overall career victory, with a 7-under-par 281 at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif. Then Hurst, who can't swim, dipped her feet in the lake, but did not go much farther. She became the fifth player to lead the Dinah Shore all four days. **Amy Alcott** (1991), **Sandra Palmer** (1975), **Sandra Post** (1978) and **Juli Inkster** (1989) were the others. **Helen Dobson** finished a stroke back, and **Laura Davies** and **Helen Aldredsson** each were two behind. Hurst made three birdies and two bogeys in the final round to hold off Dobson, who charged with a 5-under 67 to make Hurst sweat out the victory.

LPGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Se Ri Pak was virtually an unknown before this major at DuPont Country Club in Wilmington, Del. However, she was sensational in shooting an 11-under-par score to win by three strokes over **Donna Andrews** and **Lisa Hackney**. Pak (20), whose fame would really take off later in the summer, became the youngest champion in this tournament's history. She also was the third youngest winner of a major, behind **Patty Berg** (19) at the 1937 Titleholders and **Betty Hicks** (17) at the1937 Western Open. Pak also was the first rookie to win a major since **Liselotte Neumann** at the 1988 U.S. Open. This also was Pak's first career victory, a rookie whose previous best finish was 11th. She went wire-to-wire, prompting many South Korean journalists to fly in for the final round.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

If the LPGA Championship didn't make **Pak** famous, the U.S. Women's Open at Blackwolf Run in Kohler, Wis., did for sure. She faced off with amateur **Jenny Chuasiriporn** in an enthralling 18-hole playoff that had to go an extra two holes beyond that to determine a winner. Finally, Pak's 12-foot birdie gave her the victory, prompting an unusual display of emotion as her father picked her up and hugged her. It was the first sudden death in the U.S. Open in 53 years, and at 20 she became the tournament's youngest winner. Pak and Chuasiriporn each shot a 2-over-par 73 in the playoff following a pair of 6-over 290s on the brutally difficult course. Chuasiriporn was attempting to become the second amateur champion in the tournament's history and the first since **Catherine LaCoste** in 1967. She missed a 10-foot par putt on the 18th hole of the playoff, which would have given her the victory. On the previous day, Chuasiriporn forced the playoff with a stunning 40-foot birdie putt. Pak made a clutch shot at the 18th as well, standing in water next to the fairway and found a way to make a bogey and stay tied with Chuasiriporn to force the sudden death. Pak parlayed this victory into enough momentum to capture the Jamie Farr Kroger Classic and Giant Eagle LPGA Classic over the following three weeks.

DU MAURIER CLASSIC

With **Annika Sorenstam** applying the pressure, **Brandie Burton** looked like she might fall apart over the last two holes at the Essex Golf & Country Club in Windsor, Ontario. However, Burton kept herself together enough for an emotional victory that ended five winless years fraught with injuries. Burton was the 1991 Rookie of the Year, but her career had reached such a low point, she thought about giving up the game. Good thing she didn't. Burton made a remarkable shot on No. 17 in the final round, chipping from 75 feet away in the rough with a bad lie to within 4 feet for a birdie. Then she saved par on the 18th from 8 feet for a final-round even-par 72 that still gave her a tournament-record 18-under 270 total. It also was the lowest under-par score in any women's major. **Betsy King** held the previous record with a 17-under 267 at the 1992 LPGA Championship. Sorenstam finished one stroke behind Burton, her best showing in a major in two years for the two-time winner of the U.S. Women's Open.

SENIOR PGA TOUR

You needed to know only one name—**Hale Irwin**. To say he dominated the tour doesn't do his play justice. In a sport where more than one victory is impressive, Irwin had six wins in a span of 13 tournaments through August, giving him 19 titles since joining the tour in 1995. Irwin also finished in the top five in all 16 tournaments he played in through August. Among his highlights were victories in the U.S. Senior Open and the PGA Seniors' Championship. At the U.S. Senior Open at Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, Calif., Irwin birdied two of the last three holes to beat Vicente Fernandez by a shot. Irwin became the seventh player to win the U.S. Open on the regular and Senior tours. He won three U.S. Opens. In this tournament, he bounced back from a first-round 77 to finish with a 1-over-par 285 following a 2-under 69 on the final day. It was the worst opening score ever for a winner on the Senior Tour. Irwin continued his domination of the PGA, taking his third in a row with a combined score of 35-under over that time. It's the first time someone has accomplished that feat since **Eddie Williams** in 1942 and 1945-46. There was no tournament in 1943 and '44 because of World War II. As for Irwin, he had a finishing score of 13-under 275 to win by seven strokes over **Larry Nelson** at PGA National Golf Course in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

USA CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 19-21, 1998
At New Orleans

Highlights: There's no doubt whatsoever about who stole the show at this meet. **Marion Jones**, a former college basketball player, was absolutely brilliant. Jones won the 100 meters, the 200 meters and the long jump, and she's well on her way to being the most dominant woman athlete in the world. If she continues at this pace, Jones will quickly become known as one of the best of all time. On the men's side, grizzled old veteran **John Godina** showed that he still has what it takes. Godina won both the shot put and the discus, and it wasn't really close. **Tim Harden** won the men's 100 meters, and **Chris Huffins** won the decathlon.

CRAIG MORTIMORE/ALLSPORT

RESULTS

Women's 100-meter dash: 1, Marion Jones, 10.72; 2, Chryste Gaines, 10.89; 3, Inger Miller, 11.12

Women's 200-meter dash: 1, Marion Jones, 22.46; 2, Zundra Feagin-Alexandre, 23.04; 3, Cheryl Tapin, 23.07

Women's 400-meter dash: 1, Kim Graham, 50.96; 2, Rochelle Stevens, 51.07; 3, Monique Hennegan, 51.11

Women's 800-meter run: 1, Jearl Miles-Clark, 1:58.78; 2, Joetta Clark, 1:59.01; 3, Meredith Valmon, 1:59.29

Women's 1,500-meter run: 1, Suzy Hamilton, 4:05.28; 2, Amy Wickus, 4:07.95; 3, Alisa Harvey, 4:08.33

Women's 5,000-meter run: 1, Regina Jacobs, 15:32.31; 2, Libbie Hickman, 15:39.40; 3, Amy Rudolph, 15:41.31

Women's 10,000-meter run: 1, Lynn Jennings, 34:09.86; 2, Jennifer Rhines, 34:10.3; 3, Shelly Steely, 34:11.75

Women's 100-meter hurdles: 1, Cheryl Dickey, 12.82; 2, Angela Vaughn, 12.88; 3, Miesha McKelvy, 12.97

Women's 400-meter hurdles: 1, Kim Batten, 53.61; 2, Michelle Johnson, 54.80; 3, Sandra Glover, 55.11

Women's 3,000-meter steeplechase: 1, Courtney Meldrum, 10:21.00; 2, Elizabeth Jackson, 10:21.90; 3, Lesley Lehane, 10:25.90

Women's High Jump: 1, Tisha Waller, 1.94m; 2, Amy Acuff, 1.94m; 3, Eruc Aldrich, 1.90m

Women's Pole Vault: 1, Kellie Suttle, 4.27m; 2, Stacy Dragila, 4.10m; 3, Kimberly Becker, 4.10m

Women's Long Jump: 1, Marion Jones, 23-8; 2, Shana Williams, 22-07.75; 3, Dawn Burrell, 22-7.75

Women's Triple Jump: 1, Sheila Hudson, 45-0.25; 2, Cynthea Rhodes, 44-9.75; 3, Tiombe Hurd, 44-9.50

Women's Shot Put: 1, Connie Price-Smith, 18.67m; 2, Teri Tunks, 18.20m; 3, Tressa Thompson, 17.47m

Women's Discus: 1, Seiala Sua, 62.24m; 2, Kristin Kuehl, 61.28m; 3, Aretah Hill, 60.48m

Women's Hammer: 1, Windy Dean, 64.12m; 2, Amy Palmer, 63.71m; 3, Dawn Ellerbe, 63.44m

Women's Javelin: 1, Nicole Carroll, 56.58m; 2, Windy Dean, 56.23m; 3, Lynda Lipson-Blutreic, 56.05m

Women's Heptathlon: 1, Kelly Blair-Labounty, 6402; 2, Shelia Burrell, 6294; 3, Tiffany Lott, 6123

Women's 10,000-meter race walk: 1, Joanne Dow, 47:06.50; 2, Michelle Rohl, 47:32.70; 3, Debbi Lawrence, 48:34.40

Men's 100-meter dash: 1, Tim Harden, 9.88; 2, Brian Lewis, 9.98; 2, Tim Montgomery, 9.99

Men's 200-meter dash: 1, Gentry Bradley, 20.47; 2, Allen Johnson, 20.54; 3, Curtis Perry, 20.56

Men's 400-meter dash: 1, Jerome Young, 44.09; 2, Tyree Washington, 44.38; 3, Antonio Pettigrew, 44.40

Men's 800-meter run: 1, Mark Everett, 1:45.28; 2, Johnny Gray, 1:45.47; 3, Trinity Townsend, 1:45.75

Men's 1,500-meter run: 1, Jamey Harris, 3:37.99; 2, Jason Pyrah, 3:38.77; 3, Paul McMullen, 3:39.26

Men's 5,000-meter run: 1, Marc Davis, 13:40.62; 2, Alan Culpepper, 13:41,13; 3, Peter Julian, 13:49.42

Men's 10,000-meter run: 1, Daniel Browne, 29:46.06; 2, James Menon, 29:47.58; 3, Reuben Reina, 29:47.61

Men's 100-meter hurdles: 1, Reggie Torian, 13.03; 2, Mark Crear, 13.06; 3, Dudley Dorival, 13.30

Men's 400-meter hurdles: 1, Bryan Bronson, 47.03; 2, Angelo Taylor, 47.90; 3, Joey Woody, 47.97

Men's 3,000-meter steeplechase: 1, Pascal Dobert, 8:33.91; 2, Tom Nohilly, 8:37.56; 3, John Mortimer, 8:38.62

Men's High Jump: 1, Charles Austin, 2.30m; 2, Nathan Leeper, 2.30m; 3, Brian Brown, 2.25m

Men's Pole Vault: 1, Jeff Hartwig, 5.58m; 2, Pat Manson, 5.75m; 3, Dean Starkey, 5.65m

Men's Long Jump: 1, Roland McGhee, 27-2; 2, Erick Walder, 27-1.25; 3, Kevin Dilworth, 26-6-2.5

Men's Triple Jump: 1, LaMark Carter, 57-2.75; 2, Robert Howard, 56-2; 3, Von Ware, 55-1

Men's Shot Put: 1, John Godina, 21.71m; 2, C.J. Hunter, 20.84m; 3, Adam Nelson, 20.35m

Men's Discus: 1, John Godina, 67.09m; 2, Adam Setliff, 66.43m; 3, Andrew Bloom, 66.42m

Men's Hammer: 1, Lance Deal, 78.19m; 2, Jud Logan, 71.29m; 3, Kevin McMahon, 69.95m

Men's Javelin: 1, Tom Pukstys, 82.37m; 2, Joshua Johnson, 75.76m; 3, Ed Kaminski, 75.44m

Men's Decathlon: 1, Chris Huffins, 8694; 2, Ricky Barker, 8183; 3, Brian Brophy, 8123

Men's 20,000-meter race walk: 1, Tim Seaman, 1:35:07.70; 2, Curt Clausen, 1:35:41.80; 3, Jonathan Matthews, 1:35.58.40

1988 NCAA DIVISION I INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 13-14, 1998
AT INDIANAPOLIS

Highlights: Perennial powerhouse Arkansas dominated the men's side, finishing nearly 20 points ahead of second-place Stanford. The Razorbacks got a first-place finish from triple jumper **Robert Howard**. On the women's side, it wasn't even close. Traditional dynasty LSU had only half as many points as Texas. LSU had been bidding for its sixth consecutive title. Texas was led by high jumper **Erin Aldrich** and its second-place relay team. The Baylor relay teams—men's and women's—both won.

MEN

1, Arkansas 56; 2, Stanford 36.5; 3, Washington State 26; 3, Clemson 26; 5, Southern Methodist 23; 6, Michigan 20; 7, Georgia Tech 18; 7, Baylor 18; 7, South Carolina 18; 7, Florida 18; 11, Iowa 17; 12, UCLA 16.5; 13, Washingon 16; 14, Nebraska 15; 14, North Carolina 15; 14, Minnesota 15; 17, Illinois 14; 18, Arizona 13; 19, Texas A&M 10; 10, Colorado 10; 19, Miami 10; 19, LSU 10; 23 Wisconsin 9; 24, Idaho 8; 24, Missouri 8; 24, George Mason 8; 24, Dartmouth 8; 24, Colorado State 8; 24, Texas 8; 24, Kansas 8; 31, TCU 7; 31, Eastern Michigan 7; 31, Northwestern State 7; 34, Houston 6; 34, Texas-Arlington 4; 34, Oregon 6; 34, Auburn 6; 34; Indiana State 6; 34, Brown 6; 40, Villanova 5; 40, Purdue 5; 40, Cal State Northridge 5; 40, BYU 5; 40, Kent 5; 45; Penn State 4; 45, Central Michigan 4; 45, Oklahoma 4; 45, Long Beach State 4; 45, UTEP 4; 45, Boston Univ. 4; 45, Mount St. Mary's 4; 52, Rice 3; 52, Georgetown 3; 52, Iowa State 3; 52, Fresno State 3; 52, Coppin State 3; 57, William & Mary 2; 57, Manhattan 2; 57, Texas Tech 2; 60, Michigan State 1; 60, Kentucky 1; 60, Notre Dame 1; 60, Portland 1; 60, James Madison 1; 60, Wyoming 1.

WOMEN

1, Texas 60; 2, LSU 30; 3, Georgetown 26; 3, Pitt 26; 5, Michigan 24.5; 6, Florida 24; 7. Southern Methodist 23; 8, Georgia 21; 9, Wisconsin 20; 10, Brigham Young 18.50; 11, South Carolina 18; 11, Baylor 18; 13, Auburn 17; 14, Providence 14; 15, Vanderbilt 13; 15, Fresno State 13; 17, Villanova 12; 17, Kansas 12; 19, North Carolina 11; 19, UCLA 11; 21, Stanford 10; 21, Texas A&M 10; 21, Kansas State 10; 21, Arizona 10; 25, Colorado 9; 25 UTEP 9; 27, Boston College 8; 27, Coastal Carolina 8; 27, Arkansas 8; 27, Georgia Tech 8; 31, Illinois 7; 31, Tennessee 7; 33, Clemson 6; 33, Harvard 6; 33, Eastern Kentucky 6; 33, Wyoming 6; 33, Long Beach State 6; 38, Purdue 5; 38, Weber State 5; 38, Oklahoma State 5; 38, Bowling Green State 5; 38, Houston 5; 43, Wichita State 4; 43, Miami 4; 43, Nebraska 4; 43, Texas-San Antonio 4; 43, East Tennessee State 4; 43, Eastern Michigan 4; 49, Kentucky 3; 49, Iowa State 3; 49, George Mason 3; 49, Dartmouth 3; 49, Florida International 3; 49, Tulane 3; 55, Arizona State 2.50; 56, Texas-Arlington 2; 56, Valparaiso 2; 58, Colorado State 1; 58, N.C. State 1; 58, Montana State 1; 58,

James Madison 1; 62, Utah State 0.50

RESULTS

Women's 55-meter dash: 1, Kwajalein Butler, LSU; 2, Debbie Ferguson, Georgia; 3, Lakeisha Backus, Texas

Women's 400-meter dash: 1, Meka Rembert, Nebraska; 2, Roshell Russell, Kentucky; 3, Jennifer Jordan, Baylor

Women's 800-meter run: 1, Hazel Clark, Florida; 2, Julia Reynolds, Georgetown; 3, Chantee Earl, Pittsburgh

Women's 1-mile run: 1, Carmen Douma, Villanova; 2, Angela Graham, Boston College; 3, Jamie King, Eastern Kentucky

Women's 3,000-meter run: 1, Katie McGregor, Michigan; 2, Jolene Williams, Coastal Carolina; 3, Kristen Gordon, Georgetown

Women's 4x400-meter relay: 1, Baylor; 2, Texas; 3, Georgetown

Women's High Jump: 1, Erin Aldrich, Texas; 2, Kajsa Bergqvist, SMU; 3, Dora Gyorffy, Harvard

Women's Pole Vault: 1, Melissa Price, Fresno State; 2, Candy Mason, Kansas; 3, Marylou Badillo, Long Beach State

Women's Triple Jump: 1, Trecia Smith, Pittsburgh; 2, Nicole Gamble, North Carolina; 3, Stacey Bowers, Baylor

Women's Shot Put: 1, Terri Tunks, SMU; 2, Amy Palmer, BYU; 3, Jesseca Cross, Wyoming

Men's 55-meter dash: 1, Ja Warren Hooker, Washington; 2, Corey Bridges, South Carolina; 3, Ronnie Powell, NW Louisiana

Men's 400-meter dash: 1, Davian Clarke, Miami; 2, Fabian Rollins, Eastern Michigan; 3, Rohan McDonald, Texas Tech

Men's 800-meter run: 1, David Krummenacker, Georgia Tech; 2, Derrick Patterson, Missouri; 3, Robert True, Illinois

Men's 1-mile run: 1, Kevin Sullivan, Michigan; 2, Bryan Berryhill, Colorado State; 3, Seneca Lassiter, Arkansas

Men's 3,000-meter run: 1, Adam Goucher, Colorado; 2, Bernard Dwight, Washington State; 3, Matt Kerr, Arkansas

Men's 4x400-meter relay: 1, Baylor; 2, Illinois; 3, Clemson

Men's Triple Jump: 1, Robert Howard, Arkansas; 2, Chris Kwaramba, Idaho; 3, Andre Scott, Auburn

Men's Weight Throw: 1, Libor Charfreitag, SMU; 2, Scott Russell, Kansas; 3, Scott Warren, Nebraska

1988 NCAA DIVISION I OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

AT BUFFALO, N.Y.
June 3-6, 1998

Highlights: The Arkansas men won their fifth straight outdoors championship, led again by jumper **Robert Howard**, who scored a double in the triple jump and the long jump. Arkansas trailed Stanford by 12.5 points heading into the final day's events, but a win by **Seneca Lassiter** in the 1,500 meters and a third place from **Mike Power** in the 5,000 meters, as well as Howard's performances, led the Razorbacks to Hog heaven. On the women's side, Texas also trailed heading into the final day, but rallied to win for the first time since 1986. The Longhorns were aided by victories from **Angie Vaughn** in the 100 hurdles and **Suzlann Reid** in the 400 meters.

MEN

1, Arkansas 58.50; 2, Stanford 51; 3, Texas Christian 43; 4, Louisiana State 41; 4, Arizona 41; 6, UCLA 38; 7, Southern California 29; 8, Georgia Tech 28; 9, Southern Methodist 26; 10, Kansas State 25; 11, Clemson 22; 11, South Carolina 22; 13, Florida 19; 14, Colorado 16; 14, Colorado State 16; 14, Washington State 16; 17, Long Beach State 13; 18, Nebraska 12,50; 19, Georgia 11; 19, Baylor 11; 19, Texas A&M 11; 19, Wisconsin 11; 23, Brigham Young 10; 23, Washington 10; 23, Michigan 10; 26, Iowa 9; 27, Oklahoma 8; 27, Eastern Michigan 8; 27, Miami 8; 27, Alabama 8; 27, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo 8; 27, California 8; 27, Houston 8; 27, Penn State 8; 35, Minnesota 7; 35, Oregon 7; 35, Villanova 7; 38, Missouri 6; 38, Notre Dame 6; 38, Kent State 6; 38, Arizona State 6; 38, North Carolina 6; 38, Idaho 6; 38, Pennsylvania 6; 38, Fresno State 6; 38, Florida A&M 6; 47, Manhattan 5; 47, Mount Saint Mary's 5; 47, Utah State 5; 47, Texas 5; 51, Western Michigan 4; 51, Northeast Louisiana 4; 51, Portland 4; 51, Tennessee 4; 51, Boston University 4; 56, Virginia Commonwealth 3; 56, Florida International 3; 56, Illinois 3; 56, Oklahoma State 3; 56, St. John's 3; 56, Brown 3; 62, Texas-El Paso 2; 62, Wyoming 2; 62, Rice 2; 62, Hampton 2; 62, Northwestern State 2; 62, Princeton 2; 62, North Carolina State 2; 62, Norfolk State 2; 70, DePaul 1; 70, Utah 1; 70, Kansas 1; 70, Montana State 1.

WOMEN

1, Texas 60; 2, UCLA 55; 3, Brigham Young 45; 3, Southern Methodist 45; 5, Southern California 35; 6, Georgia 32; 7, South Carolina 29.50; 8, Nebraska 26; 9, Stanford 25.50; 10, Baylor 25; 11, Arizona 24; 12, Pittsburgh 23; 13, Florida 17; 14, Wisconsin 16; 15, Michigan 15; 15, Tennessee 15; 15, Illinois 15; 18, Texas A&M 13; 18, North Carolina 13; 20, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo 12.50; 21, Seton Hall 12; 22, Houston 11; 22, Louisiana State 11; 22, Colorado 11; 25, George Mason 10; 25, Villanova 10; 27, Florida International 9; 27, Colorado State 9; 29, Ball State 8; 29, Texas Christian 8; 29, Louisiana Tech 8; 29, Georgia Tech 8; 29, Washington 8; 29, Arkansas 8; 35, West Virginia 7.50; 36, Texas-El Paso 7; 36, Miami 7; 36, Oregon 7; 39, Auburn 6; 39, Ohio State 6; 39, Kansas 6; 39, Harvard 6; 39, Southwest Texas 6; 39, Minnesota 6; 39, Boston University 6; 46, Tennessee-Chattanooga 5; 46, Texas Southern 5; 46, Wichita State 5; 46, Bradley 5; 46, Tulane 5; 51, San Diego State 4; 51, Appalachian State 4; 51, Morgan State 4; 51, Weber State 4; 51, Ohio University 4; 51, Kansas State 4; 57, Bowling Green State 3; 57, California 3; 57, Kent State 3; 57, Dartmouth 3; 61, Oklahoma 2; 61, Syracuse 2; 61, Coastal Carolina 2; 61, Boston College 2; 65, Wyoming 1; 65, Iowa State 1; 65, Notre Dame 1; 65, Indiana 1; 65, Virginia Tech 1; 65, Eastern Kentucky 1.

RESULTS

Women's 10,000-meter run: 1, Amy Skieresz, Arizona; 2, Angie Kujak, Wisconsin; 3, Emily Nay, NYU

Women's long jump: 1, Angie Brown, George Mason; 2, Trecia Smith, Pittsburgh; 3, Jenny Adams, Houston

Women's Discus: 1, Seilala Sua, UCLA; 2, Aretha Hill, Washington; 3, Shelly Bormann, Colorado State

Women's Heptathlon : 1, Tiffany Lott, BYU; 2, Tracye Lawyer, Stanford; 3, Kathleen Ollendick, Virginia Tech

Women's 800-meter run: 1, Hazel Clark, Florida; 2, Charmaine Howell, South Carolina; 3, Brigita Langerhole, Southern Cal

Women's 5,000-meter run: 1, Amy Skieresz, Arizona; 2, Katie McGregor, Michigan; 3, Rosemary Ryan, Boston University

Women's 400-meter hurdles: 1, Rosa Jolivet, Texas A&M; 2, Yvonne Harrison, Illinois; 3, Natasha Danvers, Southern Cal

Women's 4x100-meter relay: 1, Texas; 2, LSU; 3, Texas Christian

Women's Pole Vault: 1, Bianca Maran, Cal Poly; 2, Kim Stewart, Nebraska; 3, Leslie Henley, Tennessee

Women's Triple Jump: 1, Trecia Smith, Pittsburgh; 2, Stacey Bowers, Baylor; 3, Nicole Gamble, North Carolina

Women's Javelin: 1, Windy Dean, SMU; 2, Olivia McKoy, La. Tech; 3, Nicole Chimko, Minnesota

Women's 100-meter dash: 1, Debbie Ferguson, Georgia; 2, Shakedia Jones, UCLA; 3, Torri Edwards, Southern Cal

Women's 200-meter dash: 1, Debbie Ferguson, Georgia; 2, LaTasha Jenkins, Ball State; 3, Shakedia Jones, UCLA

Women's 400-meter run: 1, Suziann Reid, Texas; 2, Yulanda Nelson, Baylor; 3, Beverly Pierre, Seton Hall

Women's 1,500-meter run: 1, Carmen Douma, Villanova; 2, Kelly Smith, Colorado; 3, Grazyna Penc, Southern Cal

Women's 3,000-meter run: 1, Monal Chokshi, Stanford; 2, Courtney Meldrum, BYU; 3, Sara Frederickson, Wisconsin

Women's 100-meter hurdles: 1, Angie Vaughn, Texas; 2, Andria King, Georgia Tech; 3, Brigitte Foster, SW Texas State

Women's 4x400-meter relay: 1, Texas; 2, Baylor; 3, Seton Hall

Women's High Jump: 1, Erin Aldrich, Texas; 2, Kajsa Bergqvist, SMU; 3, Dora Gyorffy, Harvard

Women's Hammer: 1, Lisa Misipeka, South Carolina; 2, Amy Palmer, BYU; 3, Windy Dean, SMU

Men's Pole Vault: 1, Toby Stevenson, Stanford; 2, Borya Celentano, Long Beach State; 3, Scott Stover, UCLA

Men's Javelin: 1, Esko Mikkola, Arizona; 2, Daniel Gustaffson, SMU; 3, Mats Nilsson, Alabama

Men's 10,000-meter run: 1, Brad Hauser, Stanford; 2, Brent Hauser, Stanford; 3, Nathan Nutter, Stanford

Men's High Jump: 1, Nathan Leeper, Kansas State; 2, Jeremy Fischer, Wisconsin; 3, Staffan Strand, Minnesota

Men's Long Jump: 1, Robert Howard, Arkansas; 2, Chris Wright, Nebraska; 3, Bashir Yamini, Iowa

Men's 800-meter run: 1, Khadevis Robinson, Texas Christian; 2, David Krummenacker, Georgia Tech; 3, Robin Martin, Penn

Men's 400-meter hurdles: 1, Angelo Taylor, Georgia Tech; 2, Omar Brown, Oklahoma; 3, Kareem Archer, Villanova

Men's 3,000-meter Steeplechase: 1, Matt Kerr, Arkansas; 2, John Mortimer, Michigan; 3, Adam Batliner, Colorado

Men's 4x100-meter relay: 1, Texas Christian; 2, LSU; 3, Fresno State

Men's Discus: 1, Casey Malone, Colorado State; 2, Alex Forst, LSU; 3, Ian Waltz, Washington State

Men's Hammer: 1, Libor Charfreitag, SMU; 2, Bengt Johansson, Southern Cal; 3, Mika Laiho, Arizona State

Men's Decathlon: 1, Brenden Falconer, Kent; 2, Dominic Johnson, Arizona; 3, Attila Zsivoczky, Kansas State

Men's 100-meter dash: 1, Leonard Myles-Mills, BYU; 2, Jarmiene Holloway, Texas Christian; 3, JaWarren Hooker, Washington

Men's 200-meter dash: 1, Curtis Perry, LSU; 2, Daymon Carroll, Florida; 3, Shawn Crawford, Clemson

Men's 400-meter dash: 1, Jerome Davis, Southern Cal; 2, Davian Clarke, Miami; 3, Milton Campbell, North Carolina

Men's 1,500-meter run: 1, Seneca Lassiter, Arkansas; 2, Gabe Jennings, Stanford; 3, Bryan Berryhill, Colorado State

Men's 5,000-meter run: 1, Adam Goucher, Colorado; 2, Adbi Abdirahman, Arizona; 3, Mike Power, Arkansas

Men's 100-meter hurdles: 1, Larry Wade, Texas A&M; 2, Terrence Trammell, South Carolina; 3, Errol Williams, Notre Dame

Men's 4x400-meter relay: 1, Georgia Tech; 2, Texas Christian; 3, Florida A&M

Men's Triple Jump: 1, Robert Howard, Arkansas; 2, Levar Anderson, LSU; 3, Chris Kwaramba, Idaho

Men's Shot Put: 1, Brad Snyder, South Carolina; 2, Chima Ugwu, Arizona; 3, Jarkko Haukjarvi, Georgia

JOHNSON/GUTHRIE

Uncasville, Conn. (Feb. 6): **Reggie Johnson**, a former middleweight title holder, claimed the IBF light heavyweight title with a fifth-round knockout of **William Guthrie**. Johnson (37-5-1) connected with a brutal right to Guthrie's chin, knocking the ex-champ straight back on his head. Guthrie (24-1) lay still before medical personnel whisked him off to a hospital. On the undercard, IBF lightweight champ **Shane Mosley** (26-0) retained his IBF lightweight title with an eighth-round knockout of **Demetrio Ceballos** (20-2).

CHAVEZ/GONZALEZ

Mexico City (March 7): **Julio Cesar Chavez** did little to regain his once-sterling reputation, ending a fight with fellow Mexican **Miguel Angel Gonzalez** in a draw. In fact, Chavez barely survived enough to keep himself in line for a rematch with **Oscar De La Hoya**. Gonzalez (42-1-1) bloodied Chavez's nose in the fifth round, and by the end of the fight, had Chavez (100-2-2) hardly able to see out of a swollen left eye. But Chavez still managed to finish strong. In the eighth round, Chavez pinned Gonzales to the corner and in the 11th, Gonzalez began to bleed. The crowd of 50,000, in Gonzalez's hometown, cheered wildly. Chavez may not be a champ anymore, but in his homeland, he's still a hero.

MULLINGS/CIARLANTE, PHILLIPS/SANCHEZ

Atlantic City, NJ (March 14): **Keith Mullings** and **Vince Phillips** retained their belts in an unsurprising co-feature. Mullings (16-4-1), who had taken the WBC super welterweight title from **Terry Norris** in December, 1997, outjabbed **David Ciarlante** to win a fifth-round TKO in his first title defense. Phillips (38-3), meanwhile, disposed of **Alphonso Sanchez** with a right-left combination in the first round to hang on to his IBF junior welterweight crown. Even though Mullings' fight lasted longer, it still was hardly suspenseful: Ciarlante landed just 25 percent of his punches, while Mullings succeeded at a 49-percent rate.

LEWIS/BRIGGS

Atlantic City, NJ (March 28): **Lennox Lewis** held on to his WBC heavyweight title with a fifth-round TKO of **Shannon Briggs**, but he did little to prove himself worthy of a date with Evander Holyfield. Lewis was not sharp most of the fight, looking tired and perhaps overly focused on making Briggs (30-2) pay for calling him a "snotty-nosed Englishman." Still, Lewis had enough to improve to 33-1, forcing Briggs on the canvas four times. After Briggs' final fall, the fight was ended. Lewis kept the WBC belt, but at this point, Holyfield's IBF and WBA prizes seemed far out of reach.

TRINIDAD/ZULU

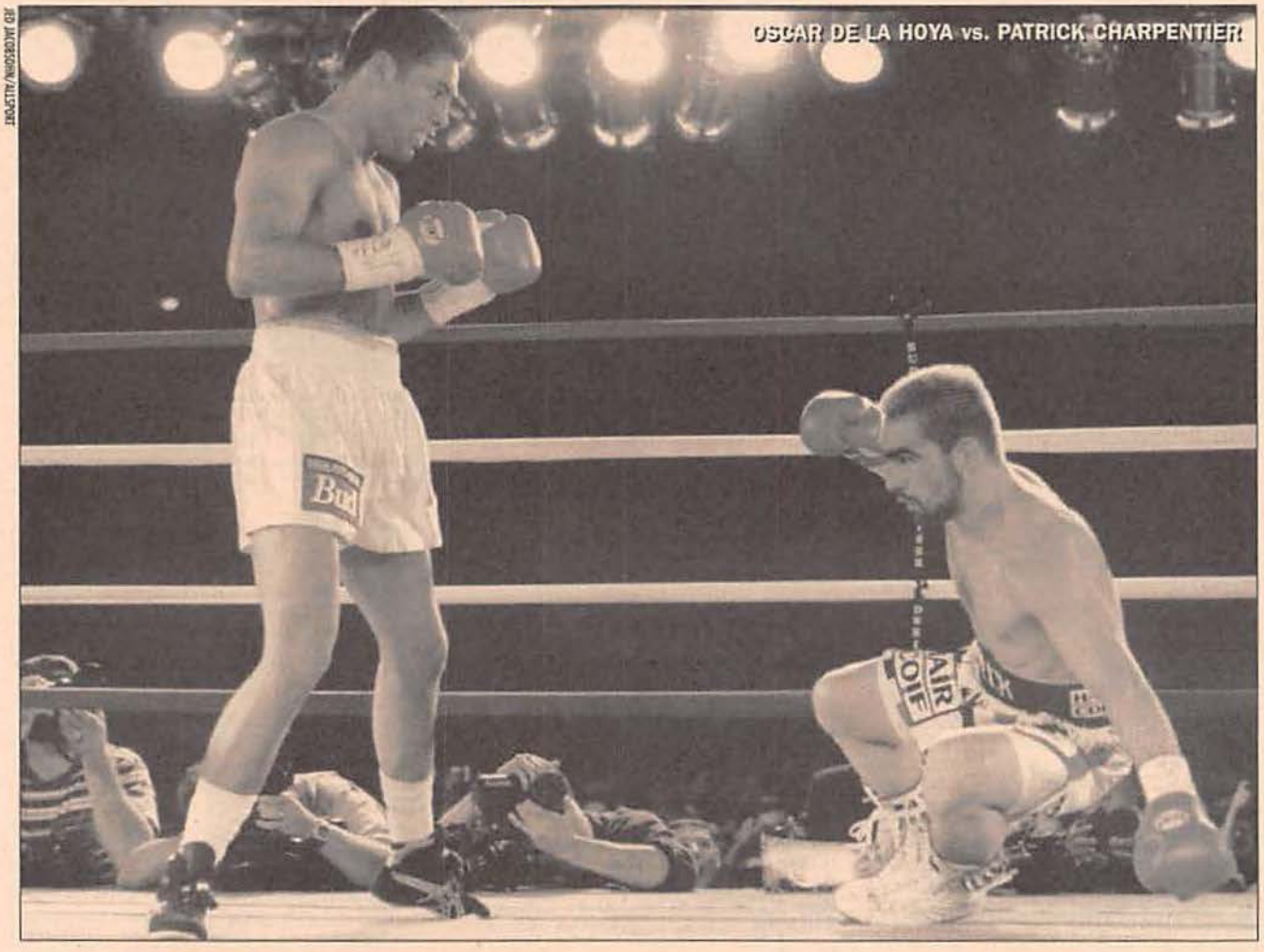
Bayamon, Puerto Rico (April 3): Unable to get on **Oscar De La Hoya**'s dance card yet, **Felix Trinidad** instead enjoyed a little homecoming party. Fighting in his native Puerto Rico for the first time in five years, Trinidad blew away **Mahenge Zulu** (17-3-1) of Zaire with a fourth-round knockout to defend his IBF welterweight belt. The power-punching Trinidad (33-0) began to make his move in the third round, then used a series of left hooks to finish off the challenger in the fourth.

HAMED/VAZQUEZ

Manchester, England (April 18): **Wilfredo Vazquez** blew off his WBA featherweight championship for a big payday against up-and-coming British fighter **"Prince" Naseem Hamed**. The Puerto Rican fighter paid in return by suffering a seventh-round knockout, dropping to 50-8-3 while Hamed improved to 30-0. Vazquez survived four knockdowns, the first coming in the third round. Hamed, showing improved defense, put Vazquez down again in the sixth, then twice in the seventh. Each time, Vazquez managed to rise, but referee Gino Rodriguez had seen enough after the fourth and called the fight.

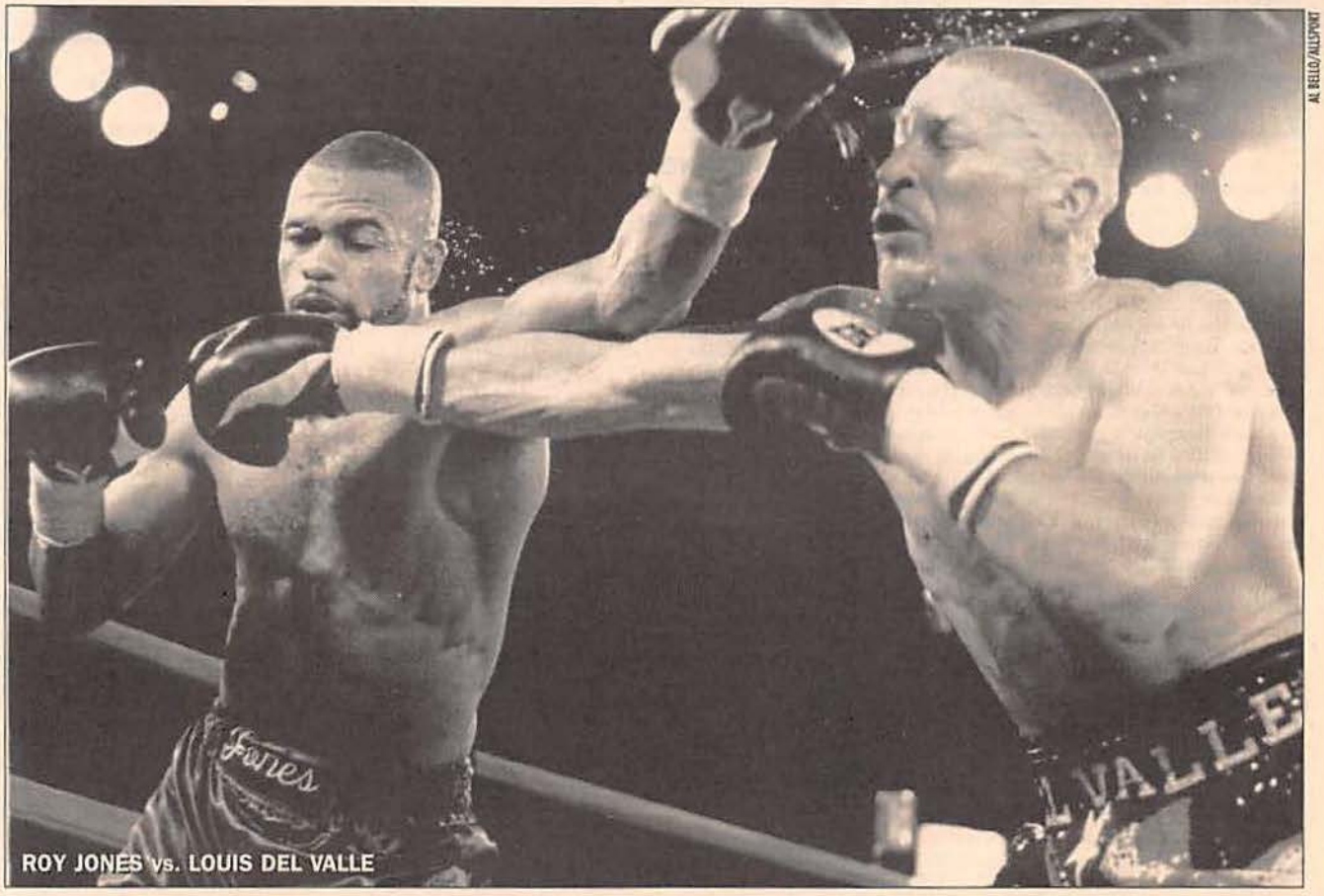
JONES/HILL

Biloxi, Miss. (April 25): **Virgil Hill** had survived 45 previous fights without a single knockdown, but it took only one punch from **Roy Jones Jr.** to change things. A two-time former champion, Hill was floored with a devastating body blow from Jones in the fourth round of their light-heavyweight fight, and while he managed to hobble up at the count of eight he could not continue. Hill later took an X-ray to see if he had broken ribs. Hill was OK, but the message was clear: The careers of Jones and Hill were headed in clearly different directions.



OSCAR DE LA HOYA vs. PATRICK CHARPENTIER

JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT



AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

ROY JONES vs. LOUIS DEL VALLE

MOSELY/MOLINA

Atlantic City, N.J. (May 9): **Shane Mosley** began to surface as a potential star in 1998, and his eighth-round TKO of **John-John Molina** was another stepping stone. Molina (45-5) stuck with Mosley for the first six rounds, but was hammered throughout the seventh, finally hitting the canvas toward the end of the round. Molina appeared strong early in the eighth, but a left to the body put him in the ropes. Mosley soon after earned the victory, and another notch of respect.

HOLYFIELD/AKINWANDE (THE NONFIGHT)

New York, NY (June 6): Nothing about a scheduled **Evander Holyfield-Henry Akinwande** WBA title fight at Madison Square Garden went right. Two days before the scheduled event, undercard fighters **Ray Mercer** and **Maria de las Nieves Garcia** were booted for medical ineligibilities—Garcia because she was found to be 21 weeks pregnant. Then, a day before the fight, the New York State Athletic Commission received results from a test taken three days earlier that Akinwande tested positive for hepatitis B. Holyfield, who needed the mandatory title defense, still held out hope for a last-minute opponent, but the card was called off several hours later. He wasn't scheduled to fight again until September.

DE LA HOYA/CHARPENTIER

El Paso, Texas (June 13): Mexican-American **Oscar De La Hoya** put on a show before 45,000 mostly adoring fans along the border, but there wasn't much fight in the show. De La Hoya destroyed **Patrick Charpentier** of France, only letting five of Charpentier's 111 punches land. De La Hoya landed 80 blows, many of which struck the clearly overmatched Frenchman in the head. By the third round, thanks to three knockdowns by De La Hoya, Charpentier was mercifully returned to the dressing room. It was De La Hoya's 23rd KO, and his record improved to 28-0.

DOUGLAS/SAVARESE

Ledyard, Conn. (June 25): **Buster Douglas**, 38, had survived near-fatal battles with weight and a diabetic coma since upsetting **Mike Tyson** for the heavyweight title in 1990. But while getting back in shape had revived his health, it did not do the same for his career. In what may have been little more than a one-round interruption of Douglas' retirement, 32-year-old **Lou Savarese** (37-2) took care of the ex-champ with three knockdowns within two minutes and 34 seconds. Douglas (36-6-1) managed to rise after a third right hand leveled him, but then plopped into his corner. The fight, significant only because of the sorry state of the heavyweight division, was finally over. On the undercard, **Julio Cesar Chavez** (101-2-2) tuned up for a rematch with **Oscar De La Hoya** by beating **Ken Sigurani** (22-2) on a third-round TKO.

NELSON/LEIJA

San Antonio, Texas (July 11): **Azumah Nelson** broke his left hand in the fifth round, but that wasn't the major reason he lost for the second time to **James Leija**. Nelson, 39, simply appeared to be a fighter nearing retirement: He was passive in the early rounds, and his late charge of aggression, emanating solely from the right hand, wasn't enough to catch up. Leija (36-3-2) won the IBA junior lightweight championship while it appeared that Nelson would have to settle for the memory of his old featherweight and junior lightweight titles. Also winning on a card full of ex-champs was **Goyo Vargas** (over **Tracy Patterson**); **Gabriel Ruelas** (over **Troy Dorsey**) and **Miguel Angel Gonzalez** (over **Alexis Perez**).

JONES/DEL VALLE

New York, NY (July 18): For one round, **Lou Del Valle** proved worthy of all the hot air he emitted leading up to a WBA/WBC light heavyweight title with **Roy Jones Jr.** at Madison Square Garden. Del Valle threw a right-left combination to send Jones to the canvas for the first time in his career in the eighth round. However, the 20-1 underdog did little else besides demonstrate a firm chin for the other 11 rounds and was easily defeated by unanimous decision. Jones was simply too quick for his former sparring partner, improving to 37-1. Del Valle dropped to 27-2 while picking up an $850,000 paycheck.

GOLOTA/SANDERS

Atlantic City, NJ (July 22): Dumped in less than 90 seconds by **Lennox Lewis** in October, 1997, **Andrew Golota** continued rebuilding his career with a 10-round unanimous decision over **Corey Sanders**. Golota (31-3) connected several times in the second round to open a gash over Sanders' left eye. Sanders was strong in the middle rounds, but Golota was better in the final three rounds, easily gaining the victory.

TYSON SAGA

Mike Tyson had been out of the boxing ring since he bit off a piece of **Evander Holyfield**'s ear in June, 1997, but he still managed to make his presence felt in 1998. In March, Tyson hopped into a World Wrestling Federation ring as a "special enforcer" for a referee. In July, when he became eligible to re-apply for a boxing license in Nevada, he decided instead to apply to New Jersey. But Tyson melted before New Jersey commissioners, getting angry and cursing during the lengthy hearing, and it was unclear whether he would be reinstated. So Tyson instead dropped his New Jersey application and went back to Nevada, where he was scheduled to meet with that state's commission on Sept. 9.

THE 1998 TRIPLE CROWN RACES

KENTUCKY DERBY

At Louisville, Ky. Churchill Downs, May 2. The 124th running. **Distance:** 1 1/4 miles. **1997 winner:** Silver Charm

Highlights: In 1996, **Bob Baffert** watched his Cavonnier lose by a nose to Grindstone in a photo finish; in 1997, he tasted victory in the Run for the Roses when Silver Charm held off Captain Bodgitt in another photo finish. He came into the 1998 Derby primed for another win, with his Indian Charlie the pre-race favorite. But it was other horse who would rule this race: Real Quiet held off a hard-charging Victory Gallop to win by half a length, with **Kent Desormeaux** up. Baffert's Indian Charlie, meanwhile, took third with **Gary Stevens** aboard, just edging the **Rick Pitino**-owned Halory Hunter by a head. **D. Wayne Lukas**, who has entered a horse in 18 consecutive Derbys, trained Cape Town, who finished fifth, one length behind Halory Hunter. Favorite Trick, a horse many thought would win this race, finished a disappointing eighth. But the story of the day was Real Quiet and his hard-fought victory.

Horse	Jockey	Finish	Odds $1
Real Quiet	Desormeaux	1-1/2	8.40
Victory Gallop	Solis	2-2 1/4	14.60
Indian Charlie	Stevens	3-hd	2.70
Halory Hunter	Nakatani	4-1	6.60
Cape Town	Bailey	5-8	4.60
Parade Ground	Sellers	6-nk	22.30
Hanuman Highway	Flores	7-nk	22.50
Favorite Trick	Day	8-6 3/4	4.40
Nationalore	Almeida	9-4 3/4	109.60
Old Trieste	Albarado	10-3 3/4	32.10
Chilito	Boulanger	11-7 1/4	34.80
Robinwould	Fires	12-4 1/2	69.80
Artax	McCarron	13-22 3/4	11.50
Rock and Roll	Torres	14-10 3/4	50.60
Basic Trainee	Velazquez	15	69.80

Margin of win: By 1/2-length. **Time:** 22-3/5, 45-3/5, 1:10-3/5, 1:35-3/5, 2:20-1/5. **Payoffs:** Real Quiet $18.80, $8.80, $5.580; Victory Gallop $13.00, $7.60; Indian Charlie $4.20

PREAKNESS STAKES

At Baltimore, Md. Pimlico, May 16. The 123rd running. **Distance:** 1 3/16 miles. **1997 winner:** Silver Charm.

Highlights: The pre-race favorite for the Preakness was the temperamental but talented Coronado's Quest, until he was scratched with a bruised right hind foot. Halory Hunter was out of this race as well, and so was Indian Charlie. That left Victory Gallop, followed by Real Quiet, as the betting favorites. And Real Quiet pulled out another magnificent win, claiming the second jewel of the 1998 Triple Crown by holding off Victory Gallop, who made a furious charge at the end just as he had in the Kentucky Derby. Classic Cat finished third, three-quarters of a length behind Victory Gallop. Also, Cape Town fractured his left front leg in the race and was retired to stud a few days later. **Bob Baffert** and owner **Mike Pegram** were overjoyed at the success of Real Quiet, a horse they had nicknamed "The Fish" because he was so skinny when viewed from the front.

Horse	Jockey	Finish	Odds $1
Real Quiet	Desormeaux	1-2 1/4	2.50
Victory Gallop	Stevens	2-3/4	2.00
Classic Cat	Albarado	3-3 3/4	12.30
Hot Wells	Prado	4-nk	25.20
Black Cash	Sellers	5-hd	7.10
Spartan Cat	Wilson	6-9 3/4	98.80
Baquero	Day	7-7 1/4	14.60
Basic Trainee	Velazquez	8-no	63.80
Cape Town	Bailey	9-5	2.90
Silver's Prospect	Douglas	10	98.00

Margin of Win: By 2-1/4 lengths. **Time:** 46-3/5, 1:11, 1:35-4/5, 1:54-4/5. **Payoffs:** Real Quiet $7.00, $3.60, $3.00; Victory Gallop $3.20, $2.80; Classic Cat $4.80

BELMONT STAKES

At Elmont, N.Y. Belmont Park, June 6. The 130th running. **Distance:** 1-1/2 miles. **1997 winner:** Touch Gold.

Highlights: Trainer **Bob Baffert**, ordinary-guy-turned-horse-owner **Mike Pegram** and their hard-partying entourage came into New York with their spirits high and having plenty of fun. Their sights were set firmly on the Triple Crown, and their goals were being carried by a skinny, awkward-striding horse named Real Quiet. Having won the first two jewels of the Crown, Real Quiet would now try to do what Baffert's Silver Charm could not in 1997. And for a time it appeared the race was all Real Quiet's. As they turned for home, the Triple Crown was within reach, and it seemed horse racing might have the hero it needed to thrust the sport before the nation. But Victory Gallop mounted yet another terrific charge, and this time it was enough. **Gary Stevens**, who had come up just short on Silver Charm a year earlier, played spoiler this year and rode Victory Gallop to a win by a nose. In a footnote, it turned out it was best Victory Gallop won, because the stewards said they would have had to penalize Real Quiet for veering down the stretch anyway. Better that Victory Gallop earned the win than to have the finish embroiled in controversy.

Horse	Jockey	Finish	Odds $1
Victory Gallop	Stevens	1-no	4.50
Real Quiet	Desormeaux	2-6	0.80
Thomas Jo	McCarron	3-1 1/4	28.50
Parade Ground	Day	4-2 1/2	20.40
Raffie's Majesty	Chavez	5-4	13.90
Chilito	Davis	6-4	85.75
Grand Slam	Bailey	7-nk	7.20
Classic Cat	Velazquez	8-9 1/2	10.40
Limit Out	Samyn	9-11	20.90
Yarrow Brae	Smith	10-20	32.25
Basic Trainee	Bravo	11	113.25

Margin of win: By a nose. **Time:** 23-3/5, 48-3/5, 1:37-2/5, 2:02-4/5, 2:29. **Payoffs:** Victory Gallop $11.00, $3.60, $3.20; Real Quiet $3.00, $2.60; Thomas Jo $5.30

MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT

REAL QUIET

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

WOMEN

This was the Year of the Woman in tennis. And it should have been. The women's field is deeper than the men's. They have the more interesting personalities, from the teenage brats to the 20-something players trying to keep them in their place. Plus, for many years, the tennis simply has been better. Technology has reduced the men's game to nothing more than a serving contest. Yawn! There are actual rallies in the women's game. Imagine that. As for the women of 1998, **Martina Hingis** didn't continue her domination from the previous year when she won three of the four Grand Slams. Instead, the four Slams produced four winners and four interesting stories.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Martina Hingis picked up where she left off in 1997 when she was the Player of the Year. The brash teenager—that's redundant with the current crop of youngsters—easily disposed of **Conchita Martinez** 6-3, 6-3. Hingis, 17, became the youngest woman to successfully defend a Grand Slam title since **Monica Seles** at the 1991 French Open. Seles, however, was not at this year's Australian. She stayed with her father, Karolj, who was fighting through stomach cancer. Another former world No. 1, **Steffi Graf**, also was not in Melbourne. She was still recovering from knee surgery that wiped out most of her 1997 schedule.

Australian Open Seeds	How They Fared
1. Martina Hingis	won, champion
2. Lindsay Davenport	lost, semifinals
3. Amanda Coetzer	lost, fourth round
4. Iva Majoli	lost, third round
5. Mary Pierce	lost, quarterfinals
6. Irina Spirlea	lost, first round
7. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	lost, quarterfinals
8. Conchita Martinez	lost, finals
9. Sandrine Testud	lost, quarterfinals
10. Anke Huber	lost, semifinals
11. Brenda Schultz McCarthy	lost, second round
12. Sabine Appelmans	lost, first round
13. Lisa Raymond	lost, third round
14. Dominique Van Roost	lost, third round
15. Ruxandra Dragomir	lost, fourth round
16. Ai Sugiyama	lost, fourth round

FRENCH OPEN

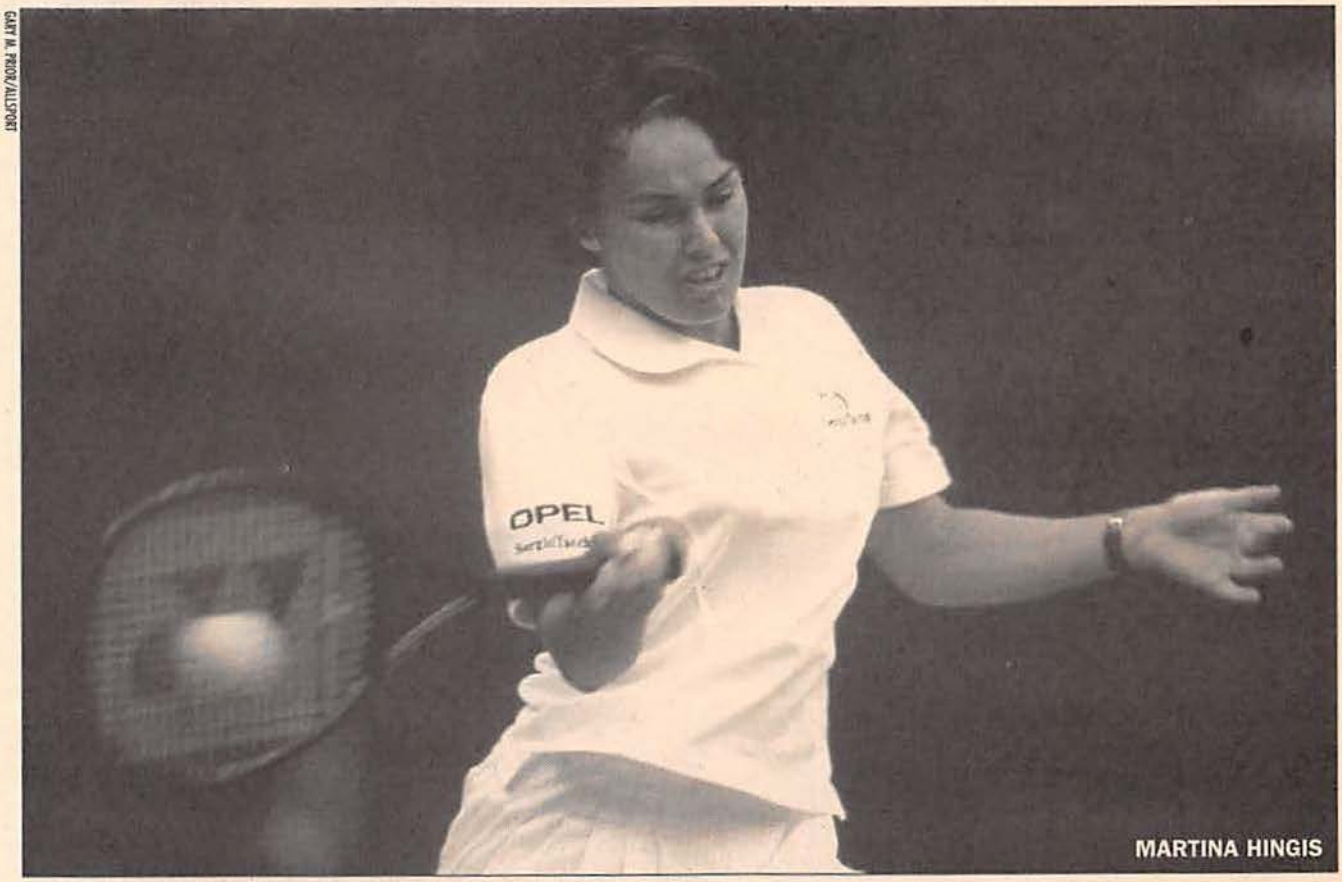
Monica Seles was the story, but **Arantxa Sanchez Vicario** was the winner. But even Sanchez Vicario recognized the magnitude of the moment, telling Seles after the 7-6, 0-6, 6-2 victory, "I'm so sorry I beat you." Just the fact Seles was playing in Paris was incredible. Her father, Karolj, died 11 days before the tournament began, ending a five-year struggle against stomach cancer. Seles, who was extremely close to her father, showed up for the French Open anyway. She wore a necklace through her father's wedding ring, and donned dark clothes throughout the tournament. Seles' play outshone anything the brash teenagers from **Martina Hingis** to **Anna Kournikova** to **Venus** and **Serena Williams** did.

French Open Seeds	How They Fared
1. Martina Hingis	lost, semifinals
2. Lindsay Davenport	lost, semifinals
3. Jana Novotna	lost, quarterfinals
4. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	won, champion
5. Amanda Coetzer	lost, first round
6. Monica Seles	lost, finals
7. Conchita Martinez	lost, fourth round
8. Venus Williams	lost, quarterfinals
9. Irina Spirlea	lost, first round
10. Iva Majoli	lost, quarterfinals
11. Mary Pierce	lost, second round
12. Nathalie Tauziat	lost, first round
13. Anna Kournikova	lost, fourth round
14. Sandrine Testud	lost, fourth round
15. Dominique Van Roost	lost, third round
16. Lisa Raymond	lost, first round

WIMBLEDON

For years, **Jana Novotna** had heard one of the cruelest words an athlete can be called—choker. Her meltdown in the 1993 Wimbledon final to Steffi Graf branded her with that label. She blew a 4-1 final-set lead in that match with a series of mistakes. Other collapses did nothing but enforce that image. Still, here was Novotna in a Wimbledon final for the third time, getting there by running through doubles partner and No. 1 player **Martina Hingis**. Novotna faced a tough foe in **Nathalie Tauziat**, but emerged a 6-4, 7-6 winner nonetheless. Afterward, Novotna broke down crying before rushing to the friends' box to hug her mother and coach, **Hana Mandlikova**, a former top player herself. This time, Novotna didn't cry on the Dutchess of Kent's shoulder, as she had following the '93 loss. The Dutchess had told her in 1997 the third time would be the charm for Novotna. She was right.

Wimbledon Seeds	How They Fared
1. Martina Hingis	lost, semifinals
2. Lindsay Davenport	lost, quarterfinals
3. Jana Novotna	won, champion
4. Steffi Graf	lost, third round
5. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	lost, quarterfinals
6. Monica Seles	lost, quarterfinals
7. Venus Williams	lost, quarterfinals
8. Conchita Martinez	lost, third round
9. Amanda Coetzer	lost, second round
10. Irina Spirlea	lost, fourth round
11. Mary Pierce	lost, first round
12. Anna Kournikova	withdrew
13. Patty Schnyder	lost, second round
14. Sandrine Testud	lost, fourth round
15. Dominique Van Roost	lost, fourth round
16. Nathalie Tauziat	lost, finals



GARY M. PRIOR/ALLSPORT

MARTINA HINGIS

MIKE HEWITT/ALLSPORT

JANA NOVOTNA

U.S. OPEN

Among the most overlooked players on the women's tour is **Lindsay Davenport**, who doesn't possess the athleticism nor the willingness to make daring statements like some of her younger competitors. But Davenport does have talent, and shedding 25 to 30 pounds over about a three-year period helped her reach her potential at the U.S. Open. She won 12 of the last 15 points to beat **Martina Hingis** 6-3, 7-5 in the final, giving Davenport her first career Grand Slam title. It also was a nice birthday present for her mother. Davenport became the first U.S.-born women's champion at this tournament since **Chris Evert** won the last of her six championships in 1982. As for Hingis, the loss capped a disappointing year by her standards. She had only the Australian Open to show for her efforts among Grand Slam titles, although Hingis remained the top-ranked player.

U.S. Open Seeds	How They Fared
1. Martina Hingis	lost, finals
2. Lindsay Davenport	won, champion
3. Jana Novotna	lost, semifinals
4. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	lost, quarterfinals
5. Venus Williams	lost, semifinals
6. Monica Seles	lost, quarterfinals
7. Conchita Martinez	lost, fourth round
8. Steffi Graf	lost, fourth round
9. Irina Spirlea	lost, fourth round
10. Nathalie Tauziat	lost, fourth round
11. Patty Schnyder	lost, quarterfinals
12. Mary Pierce	lost, fourth round
13. Amanda Coetzer	lost, quarterfinals
14. Dominique Van Roost	lost, third round
15. Anna Kournikova	lost, fourth round
16. Ai Sugiyama	lost, second round

MEN

Does anyone watch men's tennis anymore? **Pete Sampras** and **Andre Agassi** are just about the only major draws, at least for the American public. Except for Wimbledon,

MIKE HEWITT/ALLSPORT

CARLOS MOYA

Sampras' year didn't live up to his standards. As for Agassi, he stopped living up to his potential many years ago. Hey, he's married to **Brooke Shields**. Can you blame him?

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

After contemplating retirement three years ago because of a torn groin muscle, **Petr Korda** stayed with the sport he loved. And in Melbourne, his perseverance paid off with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 victory over **Marcelo Rios**. Korda was much more on top of his game than what appeared to be a disinterested Rios, dishing out 32 winners to his seven. Rios' play further cemented his image as aloof and someone who doesn't care about winning the way he should. The fact both players were in the finals was surprising. Those upset along the way included **Pete Sampras**, **Patrick Rafter** and **Andre Agassi**.

Australian Open Seeds	How They Fared
1. Pete Sampras	lost, quarterfinals
2. Patrick Rafter	lost, third round
3. Michael Chang	lost, second round
4. Jonas Bjorkman	lost, quarterfinals
5. Greg Rusedski	lost, third round
6. Petr Korda	won, champion
7. Carlos Moya	lost, second round
8. Thomas Muster	lost, first round
9. Marcelo Rios	lost, finals
10. Sergi Bruguera	lost, first round
11. Alex Corretja	lost, third round
12. Gustavo Kuerten	lost, second round
13. Goran Ivanisevic	lost, first round
14. Felix Mantilla	lost, first round
15. Mark Philippoussis	lost, second round
16. Albert Costa	lost, second round

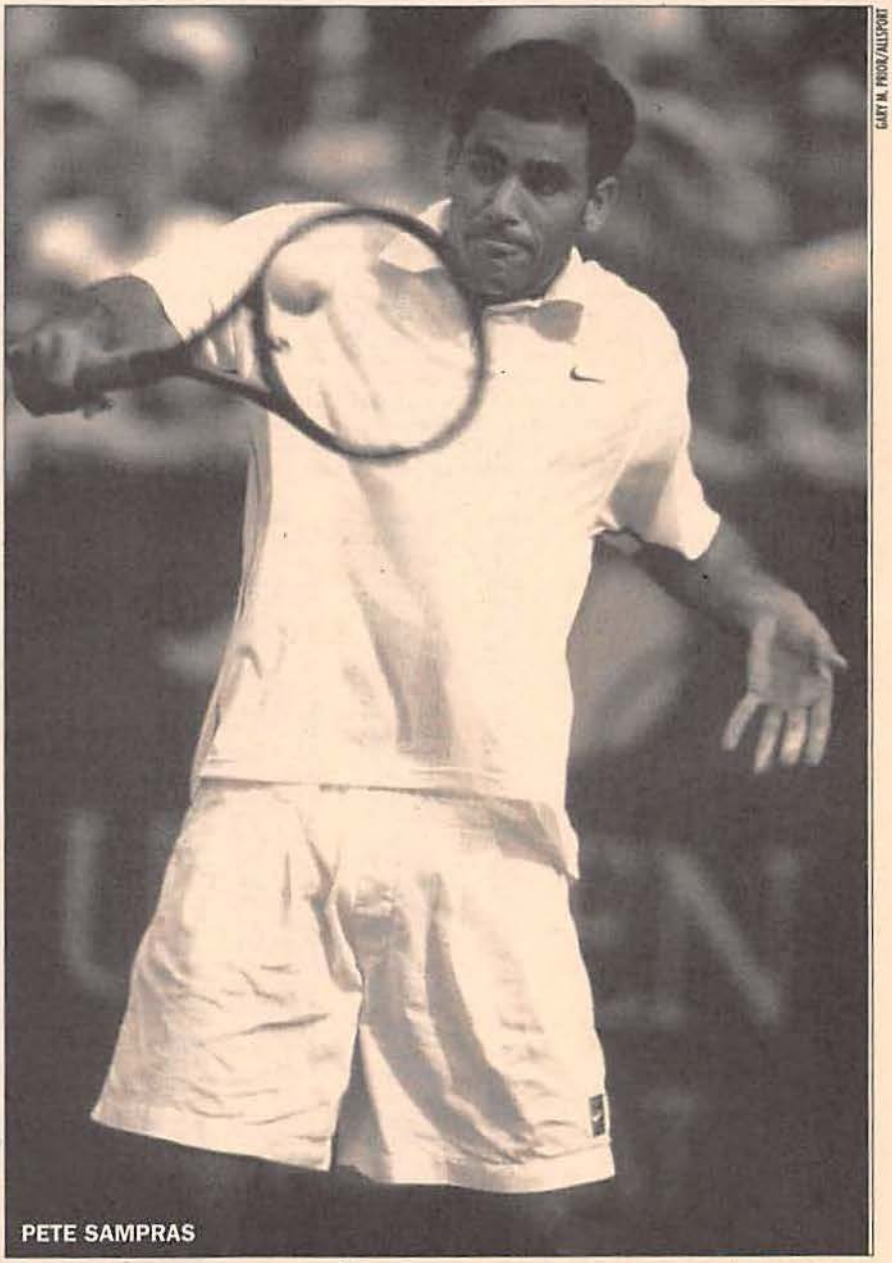
FRENCH OPEN

The French continued to belong to the Spanish. A day after countrywoman **Arantxa Sanchez Vicario** won the women's title, **Carlos Moya** beat **Alex Corretja** 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 in the final. The Spanish also claimed victories in the 1993 and '94 French Opens. Six Spaniards made this year's round of 16, and three advanced to the semifinals. However, Moya is not considered the typical Spaniard who hones his skills on clay courts since he made the 1997 Australian Open final, which is played on hardcourts. He also has a good history on the faster surface. Nevertheless, he looked at home on the slow courts at Roland Garros.

French Open Seeds	How They Fared
1. Pete Sampras	lost, second round
2. Petr Korda	lost, first round
3. Marcelo Rios	lost, quarterfinals
4. Patrick Rafter	lost, second round
5. Greg Rusedski	lost, first round
6. Yevgeny Kafelnikov	lost, second round
7. Jonas Bjorkman	lost, first round
8. Gustavo Kuerten	lost, second round
9. Karol Kucera	lost, first round
10. Richard Krajicek	lost, third round
11. Michael Chang	lost, third round
12. Carlos Moya	won, champion
13. Albert Costa	lost, fourth round
14. Alex Corretja	lost, finals
15. Felix Mantilla	lost, semifinals
16. Alberto Berasategui	lost, fourth round

WIMBLEDON

Just in case anyone wondered what happened to **Pete Sampras**, he had an answer. Indeed, he hadn't gone anywhere. At least not during this fortnight. He was pushed, but still pulled off a 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 victory over **Goran Ivanisevic** for his historic fifth title. The championship tied Sampras with **Bjorn Borg** for the most during the Open era. Bjorg won his in consecutive years; Sampras won over a six-year period. Both players are tied with **Rod Laver** for second place with 11 overall Grand Slam titles. **Roy Emerson** is the all-time leader with 12. Sampras increased his Wimbledon record to 44-2 since 1992, and was a bright spot in a year in which he failed to get past the quarterfinals in the previous three Grand Slams.


GARY M. PRIOR/ALLSPORT

PETE SAMPRAS

Wimbledon Seeds	How They Fared
1. Pete Sampras	won, champion
2. Marcelo Rios	lost, first round
3. Petr Korda	lost, quarterfinals
4. Greg Rusedski	lost, first round
5. Carlos Moya	lost, second round
6. Patrick Rafter	lost, fourth round
7. Yevgeny Kafelnikov	lost, first round
8. Cedric Pioline	lost, first round
9. Richard Krajicek	lost, semifinals
10. Alex Corretja	lost, first round
11. Jonas Bjorkman	lost, third round
12. Tim Henman	lost, semifinals
13. Andre Agassi	lost, second round
14. Goran Ivanisevic	lost, finals
15. Karol Kucera	lost, first round
16. Felix Mantilla	lost, third round

U.S. OPEN

Commit only five unforced errors, and you're pretty difficult to beat. **Patrick Rafter** was pretty difficult to beat. How did he lose the second set with so few miscues? No matter, Rafter was sensational in defeating **Mark Philippoussis** 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 in an all-Australian final. Rafter became the second repeat U.S. Open champion in a row, following **Pete Sampras'** titles in 1995-96. Rafter beat Sampras in the semifinals at this year's tournament. He played wonderfully in the championship match, but also received help from Philippoussis, who had five aces and 13 double faults. Philippoussis' serve usually hurts the opponents, not himself.

U.S. Open Seeds	How They Fared
1. Pete Sampras	lost, semifinals
2. Marcelo Rios	lost, third round
3. Patrick Rafter	won, champion
4. Petr Korda	lost, first round
5. Richard Krajicek	lost, third round
6. Greg Rusedski	lost, third round
7. Alex Corretja	lost, fourth round
8. Andre Agassi	lost, fourth round
9. Karol Kucera	lost, quarterfinals
10. Carlos Moya	lost, semifinals
11. Yevgeny Kafelnikov	lost, fourth round
12. Jonas Bjorkman	lost, quarterfinals
13. Tim Henman	lost, fourth round
14. Goran Ivanisevic	lost, fourth round
15. Alberto Berasategui	lost, first round
16. Albert Costa	lost, first round

INDY RACING LEAGUE

INDIANAPOLIS 500

At Indianapolis, May 24

Highlights: Eddie Cheever put a crown on his long racing career this day by capturing the most prestigious race of them all. He led the most laps, a total of 76, and took the lead for good on Lap 178 of 200 by beating **Buddy Lazier** out of the pits. A caution on Lap 195 allowed Lazier to close the gap between them, but Cheever held on at the restart, pulling away for the triumph, by three seconds over Lazier. Rookie **Steve Knapp** was third in the race, one of four rookies in the field. **Davey Hamilton** was fifth, and another rookie, **Robby Unser**, Cheever's teammate, was fifth. Some big names didn't fare so well, including polesitter Billy Boat, who led the first 12 laps but eventually dropped out with engine trouble. Also disappointed were **Arie Luyendyk** (20th) and **Scott Goodyear** (24th). Veteran driver **John Paul Jr.** was in control early, leading laps 98-113, but he faded to seventh place by race's end. He did lead the second-most laps with 39, but the day—and the race—belonged to Cheever.

Fin. (Start)	Driver	Laps	Reason	Money
1 (17)	Eddie Cheever	200	Running	$934,000
2 (11)	Buddy Lazier	200	Running	$405,000
3 (23)	Steve Knapp	200	Running	$280,000
4 (8)	Davey Hamilton	199	Running	$273,000
5 (21)	Robby Unser	199	Running	$187,000
6 (3)	Kenny Brack	198	Running	$254,000
7 (16)	John Paul Jr.	197	Running	$171,000
8 (19)	Andy Michner	197	Running	$164,000
9 (13)	J.J. Yeley	197	Running	$158,000
10 (18)	Buzz Calkins	195	Running	$230,000
11 (26)	Jimmy Kite	195	Running	$251,000
12 (22)	Jack Hewitt	195	Running	$223,000
13 (27)	Jeff Ward	194	Running	$221,000
14 (14)	Marco Greco	183	Engine	$142,000
15 (32)	Mike Groff	183	Running	$215,000
16 (7)	Scott Sharp	181	Gearbox	$212,000
17 (31)	Stephan Gregoire	172	Running	$210,000
18 (2)	Greg Ray	167	Gearbox	$133,000
19 (30)	Raul Boesel	164	Running	$206,000
20 (28)	Arie Luyendyk	151	Gearbox	$209,000
21 (15)	Jack Miller	128	Running	$137,000
22 (9)	Robert Guerrero	125	Running	$125,000
23 (1)	Billy Boat	111	Drive Line	$199,000
24 (10)	Scott Goodyear	100	Clutch	$198,000
25 (25)	Johnny Unser	98	Engine	$121,000
26 (6)	Sam Schmidt	48	Accident	$195,000
27 (12)	Mark Dismore	48	Accident	$194,000
28 (29)	Stan Wattles	48	Accident	$118,000
29 (20)	Jim Guthrie	48	Accident	$118,000
30 (33)	Billy Roe	48	Accident	$117,000
31 (5)	Robbie Buhl	44	Engine	$192,000
32 (24)	Donnie Beechler	34	Engine	$117,000
33 (4)	Tony Stewart	22	Engine	$191,000

Time of Race: 3:26:40.524. **Average Speed:** 145.155 mph. **Margin of Victory:** 3.191 seconds.

NASCAR WINSTON CUP CIRCUIT

DAYTONA 500

At Daytona, Fla., Feb. 15

Highlights: Dale did it! At last, veteran **Dale Earnhardt** claimed the one prize that had continued to elude him on the Winston Cup Circuit. The driver, a seven-time series champion long known as "The Intimidator," held off polesitter **Bobby Labonte** to open the 1998 season with his first-ever victory in the Daytona 500. Earnhardt had won every other race at Daytona, but not the biggest of them all. But he's shaken the jinx now. **Jeremy Mayfield** was third in one of the new Ford Tauruses, which claimed five of the top 10 spots.

Fin. (Start)	Driver	Car	Laps	Money
1 (4)	Dale Earnhardt	Chevrolet	200	$1,059,105
2 (1)	Bobby Labonte	Pontiac	200	$548,555
3 (13)	Jeremy Mayfield	Ford	200	$375,005
4 (31)	Ken Schrader	Chevrolet	200	$312,780
5 (12)	Rusty Wallace	Ford	200	$232,005
6 (10)	Ernie Irvan	Pontiac	200	$204,500
7 (21)	Chad Little	Ford	200	$126,980
8 (8)	Mike Skinner	Chevrolet	200	$135,005
9 (6)	Michael Waltrip	Ford	200	$142,005
10 (19)	Bill Elliott	Ford	200	$128,455
11 (39)	Kyle Petty	Pontiac	200	$125,155
12 (22)	Bobby Hamilton	Chevrolet	200	$117,455
13 (2)	Terry Labonte	Chevrolet	200	$116,005
14 (32)	Ricky Craven	Chevrolet	200	$107,710
15 (7)	Jimmy Spencer	Ford	200	$115,555
16 (29)	Jeff Gordon	Chevrolet	200	$114,730
17 (16)	Lake Speed	Ford	200	$96,005
18 (17)	John Andretti	Pontiac	200	$105,480
19 (38)	Kenny Irwin	Ford	199	$106,580
20 (37)	Ted Musgrave	Ford	199	$101,030

DIEHARD 500

At Talladega, Ala., April 26

Highlights: Bobby Labonte outlasted **Jimmy Spencer** to win the season's first race at Talladega by .167 second from the pole. Bobby's brother, **Terry**, actually led the most laps in the race, but finished fourth, just behind **Dale Jarrett**.

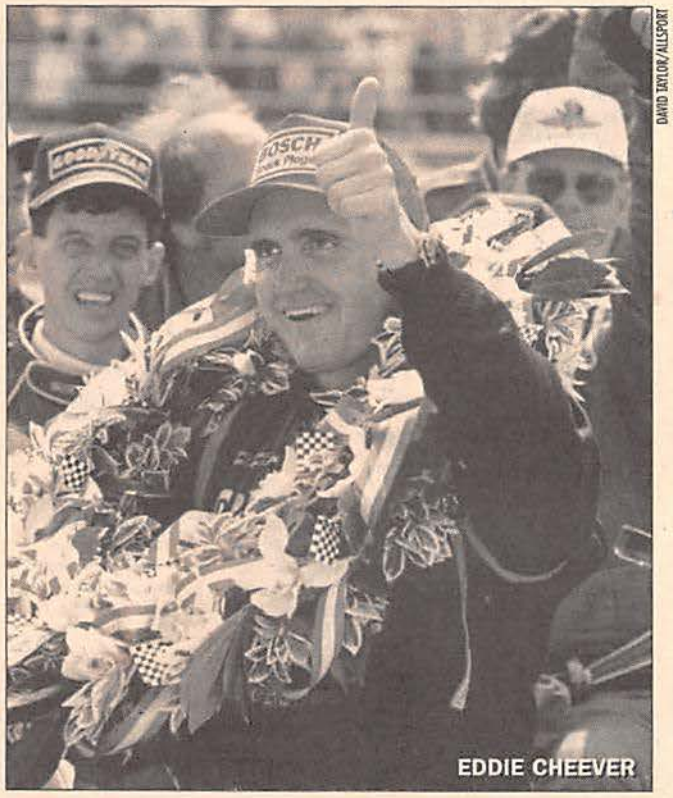
Fin. (Start)	Driver	Car	Laps	Money
1 (1)	Bobby Labonte	Pontiac	188	$141,870
2 (22)	Jimmy Spencer	Ford	188	$97,920
3 (9)	Dale Jarrett	Ford	188	$82,370
4 (3)	Terry Labonte	Chevrolet	188	$85,520
5 (6)	Jeff Gordon	Chevrolet	188	$74,490
6 (19)	Ernie Irvan	Pontiac	188	$52,080
7 (35)	Kenny Wallace	Ford	188	$45,830
8 (20)	Ward Burton	Pontiac	188	$46,630
9 (14)	Sterling Marlin	Chevrolet	188	$37,230
10 (10)	Randy Lajoie	Chevrolet	188	$48,580

COCA-COLA 600

At Charlotte, May 24

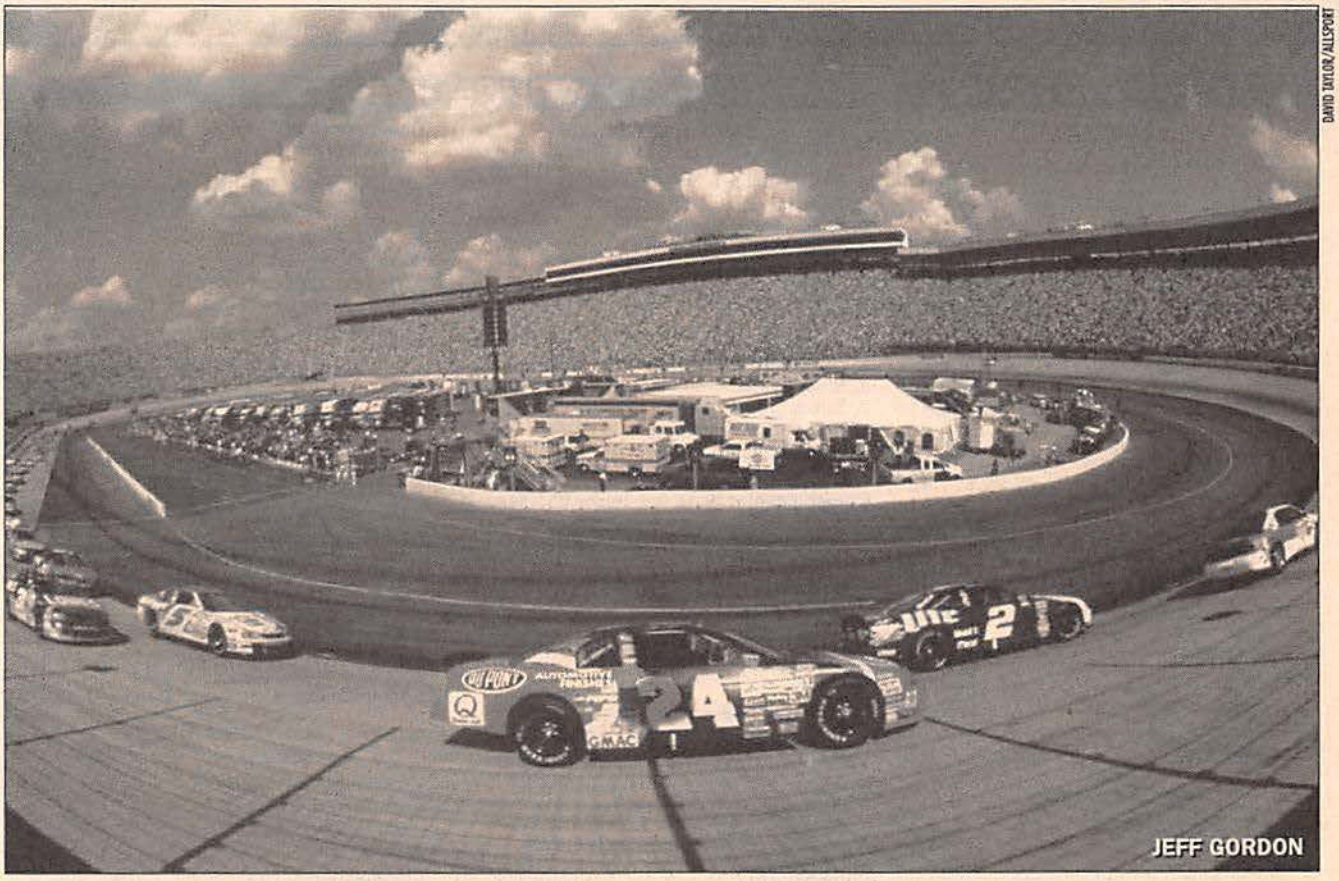
Highlights: Jeff Gordon may not be the most popular driver on the circuit, but his skills are unquestioned. He's good on super speedways, he's good on short tracks, he's good at all the other tracks, too. And he won the Coca-Cola 500 from the pole by more than four-tenths of a second over **Rusty Wallace**. **Bobby Labonte** finished third, and **Mark Martin** and **Dale Jarrett** rounded out the top five. Martin led the most laps.

Fin. (Start)	Driver	Car	Laps	Money
1 (1)	Jeff Gordon	Chevrolet	400	$429,950
2 (4)	Rusty Wallace	Ford	400	$136,500
3 (6)	Bobby Labonte	Pontiac	400	$202,550
4 (5)	Mark Martin	Ford	400	$353,000
5 (10)	Dale Jarrett	Ford	400	$136,200
6 (26)	Joe Nemechek	Chevrolet	400	$90,746
7 (3)	John Andretti	Pontiac	400	$84,100
8 (38)	Jeff Burton	Ford	400	$89,500
9 (39)	Johnny Benson	Ford	400	$57,996
10 (14)	Ken Schrader	Chevrolet	399	$73,146



DAVID TAYLOR/ALLSPORT

EDDIE CHEEVER



DAVID TAYLOR/ALLSPORT

BRICKYARD 400

At Indianapolis, Aug. 1

Highlights: Indianapolis may be the only stop on the circuit where **Jeff Gordon** is well liked, and that's because it's practically his own back yard. He grew up in Indiana, and he won the first-ever NASCAR Winston Cup race at Indy. So it's no great surprise that he won this race, too, cruising to victory ahead of **Mark Martin**. The crowd loved it.

Fin. (Start)	Driver	Car	Laps	Money
1 (3)	Jeff Gordon	Chevrolet	160	$637,625
2 (7)	Mark Martin	Ford	160	$248,375
3 (10)	Bobby Labonte	Pontiac	160	$224,525
4 (16)	Mike Skinner	Chevrolet	160	$187,325
5 (28)	Dale Earnhardt	Chevrolet	160	$169,275
6 (1)	Ernie Irvan	Pontiac	160	$159,260
7 (9)	John Andretti	Pontiac	160	$138,160
8 (14)	Rusty Wallace	Ford	160	$126,360
9 (8)	Terry Labonte	Chevrolet	160	$119,835
10 (19)	Ken Schrader	Chevrolet	160	$119,835

DAVID TAYLOR/ALLSPORT

PEPSI SOUTHERN 500

At Darlington, Sept. 6

Highlights: This time **Jeff Gordon** had some extra incentive to win: A $1 million bonus was on the line. As if Gordon needs extra incentive to win. Seems like he does that almost every week anyway. And this was no exception. Gordon and his Rainbow Warrior pit crew came into this racing leading the points chase and riding an amazing hot streak. They left $1 million richer, the victory safely in hand as Gordon held off a tough **Jeff Burton**.

Fin. (Start)	Driver	Car	Laps	Money
1 (5)	Jeff Gordon	Chevrolet	367	$1,134,655
2 (12)	Jeff Burton	Ford	367	$98,180
3 (1)	Dale Jarrett	Ford	367	$79,220
4 (18)	Dale Earnhardt	Chevrolet	367	$64,465
5 (27)	Jeremy Mayfield	Ford	366	$52,245
6 (26)	Ernie Irvan	Pontiac	365	$51,205
7 (3)	Rusty Wallace	Ford	365	$46,485
8 (8)	Sterling Marlin	Chevrolet	365	$37,935
9 (15)	Geoff Bodine	Ford	364	$40,295
10 (39)	Kenny Wallace	Ford	364	$41,505

WINSTON CUP STANDINGS

Through Sept. 20

	Points
1. Jeff Gordon	4,127
2. Mark Martin	3,933
3. Dale Jarrett	3,790
4. Rusty Wallace	3,637
5. Bobby Labonte	3,419
t5. Jeremy Mayfield	3,419
7. Jeff Burton	3,347
8. Dale Earnhardt	3,112
9. John Andretti	2,994
10. Terry Labonte	2,954
11. Ken Schrader	2,910
12. Bobby Hamilton	2,857
13. Ernie Irvan	2,846
14. Sterling Marlin	2,815
15. Michael Waltrip	2,706
16. Chad Little	2,700
17. Jimmy Spencer	2,659
18. Bill Elliott	2,539
19. Johnny Benson	2,511
20. Ward Burton	2,430

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR STANDINGS

1. Kenny Irwin	203
t2. Jerry Nadeau	177
t2. Kevin Lepage	177
4. Steve Park	110

MANUFACTURER'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Make	Points	Wins
Chevrolet	191	13
Ford	183	11
Pontiac	110	2

BUD POLE AWARD STANDINGS

Jeff Gordon	7
Rusty Wallace	4
Ward Burton	2
Ernie Irvan	2
Dale Jarrett	2
Bobby Labonte	2
Mark Martin	2
Five drivers with	1

1998 PBA TOUR

Earnings

1. Parker Bohn III	$116,805
2. Tim Criss	$103,545
3. Walter Ray Williams Jr.	$101,250
4. Mike Aulby	$81,780
5. Steve Hoskins	$78,240
6. Jason T. Couch	$75,820
7. Pete Weber	$57,785
8. Amleto Monacelli	$55,242
9. Dennis Horan Jr.	$52,855
10. Ricky Ward	$49,735
11. Danny Wiseman	$49,310
12. Thomas Baker	$48,605
13. Norm A. Duke	$48,580
14. Ryan R. Shafer	$46,425
15. Brian Voss	$43,840
16. Douglas M. Kent	$41,420
17. Butch Soper	$39,610
18. Roger Bowker	$34,600
19. Eric M. Forkel	$34,520
20. Steve Jaros	$34,115
21. David Traber	$33,890
22. Jeff A. Lizzi	$33,540
23. Michael Edwards	$29,990
24. Jess Stayrook	$28,130
25. Tom Delutz Jr.	$27,525

Scoring Average

1. Walter Ray Williams Jr.	223.82
2. Parker Bohn III	223.40
3. Tim Criss	221.96
4. Pete Weber	221.84
5. Norm A. Duke	220.68
6. Thomas Baker	220.55
7. Ryan R. Shafer	220.42
8. Amleto Monacelli	220.21
9. Jason T. Couch	220.11
10. Ricky Ward	219.66
11. Douglas M. Kent	219.52
12. Mike Aulby	219.40
13. Danny Wiseman	219.02
14. Dave Husted	218.83
15. Eric M. Forkel	218.63
16. Tom Delutz Jr.	218.60
17. Dave Wodka	218.29
18. Butch Soper	218.21
19. David Traber	218.20
20. Michael Edwards	218.15
21. Brian LeClair	218.05
22. Steve Jaros	217.74
23. Randy Pedersen	217.73
24. Brian Voss	217.68
25. Steve Hoskins	217.64

Top-Five Finishes

1. Parker Bohn III	5
t2. Thomas Baker	4
t2. Tim Criss	4
t2. Pete Weber	4
t2. Mike Aulby	4
t6. Douglas M. Kent	3
t6. Walter Ray Williams Jr.	3
t6. Amleto Monacelli	3
t6. Steve Hoskins	3
t6. Norm A. Duke	3
t6. Butch Soper	3
t12. Danny Wiseman	2
t12. Jess Stayrook	2
t12. Ryan R. Shafer	2
t12. Dave Wodka	2
t12. Jason T. Couch	2

TOURNAMENTS

Bay Area Classic
Brentwood, Calif., Jan. 20-25, 1998

1, Parker Bohn III, $16,000
2, Tom Baker, $8,500
3, Ricky Ward, $6,000
4, Jason Couch, $4,500
5, Norm Duke, $3,500

Championship: Bohn def. Baker 239-222

Long John Silver's Classic
Albuquerque, N.M., Jan. 25-Feb. 1

1, Ricky Ward, $16,000
2, Butch Soper, $8,500
3, Doug Kent, $6,000
4, Gary Skidmore, $4,500
5, Mike Scroggins, $3,500

Championship: Ward def. Soper 257-244

Columbia 300 Open
Austin, Texas, Feb. 3-7

1, Roger Bowker, $22,000
2, Butch Soper, $11,500
3, Dave Husted, $8,000
4, Jack Jurek, $6,000
5, Michael Haugen Jr., $5,000

Peoria Open
Peoria, Ill., Feb. 10-15

1, Doug Traber, $16,000
2, Walter Ray Williams Jr., $8,500
3, Doug Kent $6,000
4, Tom Baker, $4,500
5, Mark Roth, $3,500

Championship: Traber def. Williams 248-229

PBA National Championship
Toledo, Ohio, Feb. 17-22

1, Pete Weber, $28,000
2, David Ozio, $14,500
3, Tom Baker, $7,500
4, Mike Aulby, $6,000
5, Jim Johnson Jr., $5,000

Championship: Weber def. Ozio 277-236

BPAA U.S. Open
Milford, Conn., April 3-11

1, Walter Ray Williams Jr., $40,000
2, Tim Criss, $25,000
t3, Rayn Shafer, $11,000
t3, Martin Letscher, $11,000

Championship: Williams def. Criss 221-189

Bayer/Brunswick TPC
Akron, Ohio, April 14-18

1, Dennis Horan, $40,000
2, Parker Bohn III, $21,000
3, Mike Aulby, $13,000
4, Pete Weber, $10,000

Championship: Horan def. Bohn 245-202

Tucson Open
Tucson, Ariz., April 28-May 2

1, Norm Duke, $16,000
2, Eric Forkel, $8,500
3, Ricky Ward, $6,000
4, Jess Stayrook, $4,500

Championship: Duke def. Forkel 279-256

Greater Detroit Open
Taylor, Mich., May 12-16

1, Parker Bohn III, $16,000
2, Doug Kent, $8,500
3, Tom Baker, $6,000
4, Chris Hayden, $4,500

Championship: Bohn def. Kent 290-248

Brunswick Johnny Petraglia Open
North Brunswick, N.J., May 19-23

1, Brian Voss, $28,000
2, Tim Criss, $14,500
3, Amleto Monacelli, $8,000
4, Dave Wodka, $6,000

Championship: Voss def. Criss 238-230

Greater Harrisburg Open
Mechanicsburg, Pa., May 26-30

1, Parker Bohn III, $16,000
2, Steve Hoskins, $8,500
3, Brian LeClair, $6,000
4, Billy Myers Jr., $4,500

Championship: Bohn def. Hoskins 268-181

Showboat Invitational
Las Vegas, June 7-13

1, Jason Couch, $46,000
2, Amleto Monacelli, $24,000
3, Ryan Shafer, $13,000
4, Mike Edwards, $10,000

Championship: Couch def. Monacelli 205-181

AC/Delco Classic
Lakewood, Calif., June 16-20

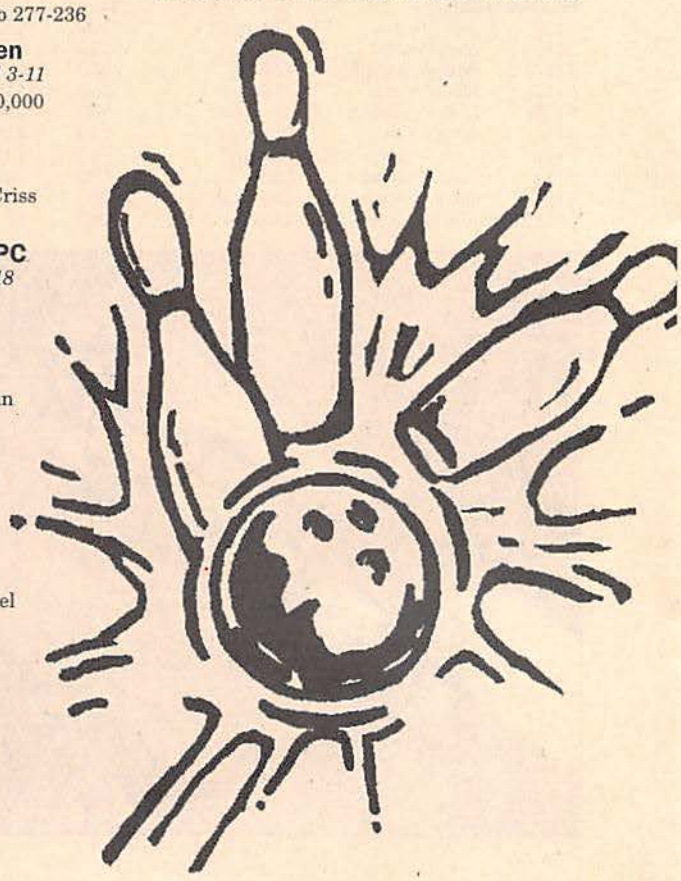
1, Steve Hoskins, $52,000
2, Tim Criss, $26,500
3, Ricky Ward, $17,000
4, Rober Smith, $12,000

Championship: Hoskins def. Criss 230-202

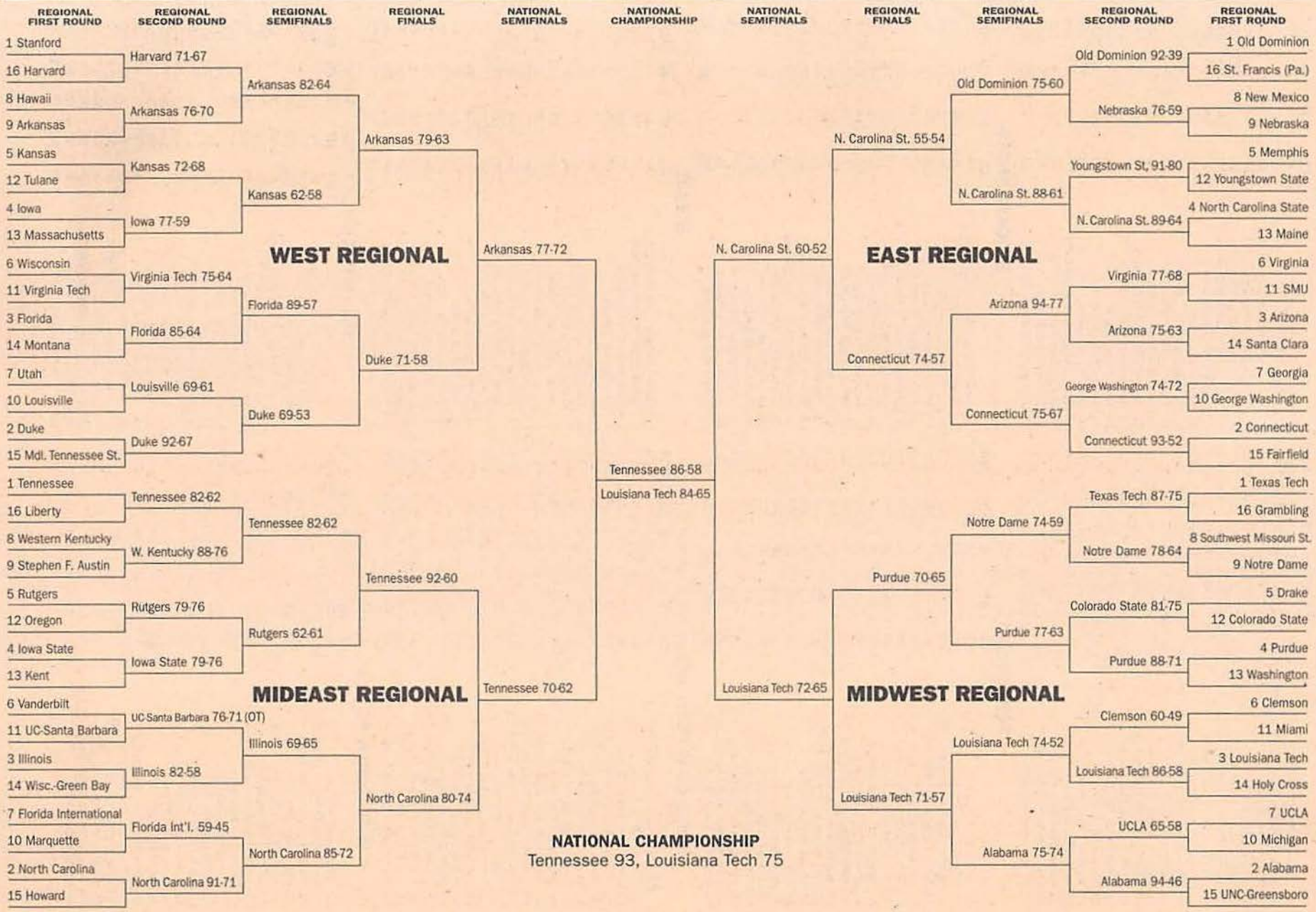
PBA Oregon Open
Portland, Ore., June 23-27

1, Danny Wiseman, $19,000
2, Sean Swanson, $10,000
3, Norm Duke, $7,000
4, Tommy Delutz Jr., $5,000

Championship: Wiseman def. Swanson 213-191



THE NCAA TOURNAMENT



NCAA WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL STATS

SCORING

		CL	HT	G	TFG	3FG	FT	PTS	AVG
1.	Allison Feaster, Harvard	SR	5-11	28	272	58	195	797	28.5
2.	Cindy Blodgett, Maine	SR	5-9	26	237	54	176	704	27.1
3.	Korie Hlede, Duquesne	SR	5-9	28	294	64	106	758	27.1
4.	Amy O'Brien, Holy Cross	JR	6-1	30	295	15	177	782	26.1
5.	Tamika Whitmore, Memphis	JR	6-2	29	300	3	151	754	26.0
6.	Karalyn Church, Vermont	SO	6-0	29	280	5	147	712	24.6
7.	Becky Hammon, Colorado St.	JR	5-6	30	238	80	148	704	23.5
8.	Chamique Holdsclaw, Tennessee	JR	6-2	39	370	9	166	915	23.5
9.	Alicia Thompson, Texas Tech	SR	6-1	31	299	4	117	719	23.2
10.	Marlene Stollings, Ohio	SR	5-11	28	200	87	155	642	22.9
11.	Delores Jones, NE Illinois	SR	6-1	26	231	0	129	591	22.7
12.	Myndee Larsen, Southern Utah	SR	6-5	28	249	0	120	618	22.1
13.	Kristina Divjak, Northwestern	JR	6-0	31	243	82	116	684	22.1
14.	Katrina Price, SF Austin	SR	5-10	28	218	50	130	616	22.0
15.	Kim Knuth, Toledo	JR	5-11	31	254	57	116	681	22.0
16.	LaTonya Johnson, Memphis	SR	6-1	30	231	51	145	658	21.9
17.	Adia Barnes, Arizona	SR	5-11	30	249	1	154	653	21.8
18.	Dominique Canty, Alabama	JR	5-10	34	262	5	203	732	21.5
19.	Lakeisha Parrish, Troy State	SO	5-10	22	192	21	65	470	21.4
20.	Melanie Halker, Siena	JR	6-1	26	230	1	88	549	21.1

ASSISTS

		CL	HT	G	NO.	AVG
1.	Dalma Ivanyi, Florida Int'l	JR	5-10	31	294	9.5
2.	Alli Bills, Utah	SR	5-7	27	212	7.9
3.	Ticha Penicheiro, Old Dominion	SR	5-11	32	239	7.5
4.	Nicki Taggart, Marquette	SR	5-7	29	215	7.4
5.	Gina Graziani, Miami (Fla.)	SO	5-8	29	210	7.2
6.	Joyce Howard, Texas-San Antonio	SR	5-5	28	201	7.2
7.	Lisa Witherspoon, Virginia Tech	JR	5-6	31	219	7.1
8.	Keisha Cox, Drake	SR	5-5	30	209	7.0
9.	Tori Boudreaux, NE Illinois	SR	5-1	26	181	7.0
10.	Amber DeWall, Northwestern	SR	5-9	30	205	6.8
11.	Jennifer O'Brien, Davidson	SO	5-6	27	184	6.8
12.	Courtney Kaup, George Mason	SO	5-6	28	189	6.8
13.	Ashley Smith, Vanderbilt	FR	5-4	29	193	6.7
14.	Janel Hollar, Siena	SR	5-5	28	185	6.6
15.	Brittney Ezell, Alabama	SR	5-5	34	220	6.5
16.	Amy Vachon, Maine	SO	5-7	30	194	6.5
17.	Sabriya Mitchell, Massachusetts	SR	5-3	30	193	6.4
18.	Laquan Stallworth, Louisiana Tech	JR	5-6	35	225	6.4
19.	Shanette Lee, Villanova	JR	5-7	29	185	6.4
20.	Judy Clark, Northwestern State	SO	5-6	28	177	6.3

REBOUNDING

		CL	HT	G	NO.	AVG
1.	Alisha Hill, Howard	SR	6-0	30	397	13.2
2.	Murriel Page, Florida	SR	6-2	32	402	12.6
3.	Jessica Zinobile, St. Francis (Pa.)	SO	5-10	30	365	12.2
4.	Nyree Roberts, Old Dominion	SR	6-3	32	384	12.0
5.	Leticia Oseguera, UC Irvine	SR	5-11	22	262	11.9
6.	Mfon Udoka, DePaul	SR	6-0	24	281	11.7
7.	Amy O'Brien, Holy Cross	JR	6-1	30	344	11.5
8.	Elise James, Robert Morris	SO	6-0	26	291	11.2
9.	Amber Hall, Washington	JR	6-1	28	313	11.2
10.	Kristina Behnfeldt, Marshall	JR	6-1	29	324	11.2
11.	Felicia Tarver, Prairie View	SO	5-10	27	300	11.1
12.	Christie Smith, Stephen F. Austin	SR	6-3	28	311	11.1
13.	Mercy Aghedo, St. Peter's	SO	6-2	28	304	10.9
14.	Allison Feaster, Harvard	SR	5-11	28	303	10.8
15.	Kym Hope, Miami (Fla.)	JR	6-2	29	306	10.6
16.	Jackie Smith, Furman	SO	6-1	29	303	10.4
17.	Simone Adams, Coppin State	SO	6-1	27	282	10.4
18.	Delores Jones, NE Illinois	SR	6-1	26	271	10.4
19.	Shauntel Manning, Chicago State	SO	6-0	27	281	10.4
20.	Alicia Conquest, Wagner	SR	6-0	29	300	10.3

BLOCKED SHOTS

		CL	HT	G	NO.	AVG
1.	Samantha Tomlinson, Troy State	SR	6-3	26	107	4.1
2.	Teresa Jenkins, Florida A&M	JR	6-6	28	98	3.5
3.	DeMya Walker, Virginia	JR	6-2	29	95	3.3
4.	Myndee Larsen, Southern Utah	SR	6-5	28	90	3.2
5.	Brooke Wyckoff, Florida State	FR	6-1	27	80	3.0
6.	Cortney Moore, Samford	FR	6-3	26	70	2.7
7.	Lasendia Baker, Miss. Valley St.	SR	5-10	28	75	2.7
8.	Delores Jones, NE Illinois	SR	6-1	26	69	2.7
9.	Tammi Blackstone, Drake	SO	6-4	30	77	2.6
10.	Mandi Ortega, Idaho State	SR	6-3	27	69	2.6
11.	Trish Halpin, George Mason	SO	6-3	28	67	2.4
12.	Teresa Geter, Tennessee	FR	6-3	39	93	2.4
13.	Simone Adams, Coppin State	SO	6-1	27	63	2.3
14.	Joannah Kauffman, Georgia Tech	SR	6-3	28	65	2.3
15.	Tanya Strong, Tex.-Arlington	SR	6-4	27	62	2.3
16.	Nickeia Morris, Pittsburgh	SO	6-7	26	59	2.3
17.	Ruth Riley, Notre Dame	FR	6-5	32	71	2.2
18.	Vasso Beskaki, New Orleans	JR	6-8	28	61	2.2
19.	Suzanne Street, Delaware	JR	6-4	27	56	2.1
20.	Crystal Thorne, Detroit	SR	6-3	28	58	2.1

FIELD GOAL PCT. (MIN. 5 FG MADE PER GAME)

		CL	HT	G	FG	FGA	PCT
1.	Myndee Larsen, Southern Utah	SR	6-5	28	249	344	72.4
2.	Barbara Farris, Tulane	SR	6-3	27	151	210	71.9
3.	Tammi Blackstone, Drake	SO	6-4	30	173	266	65.0
4.	Tamika Whitmore, Memphis	JR	6-2	29	300	464	64.7
5.	Sharon Mitchell, Ga. Southern	SO	6-0	29	160	251	63.7
6.	Nyree Roberts, Old Dominion	SR	6-3	32	263	416	63.2
7.	Diane Seng, Tennessee Tech	SO	6-2	28	190	304	62.5
8.	Pollyanna Johns, Michigan	SR	6-3	28	176	283	62.2
9.	Gergana Branzova, Fla. Int'l	SR	6-4	31	220	355	62.0
10.	Amanda Wilson, Louisiana Tech	JR	6-0	34	287	464	61.9
11.	Theia Hudson, Southern Illinois	SR	6-2	28	156	253	61.7
12.	Karalyn Church, Vermont	SO	6-0	29	280	461	60.7
13.	Alisa Burras, Louisiana Tech	SR	6-3	35	205	339	60.5
14.	Conswella Sparrow, Auburn	SO	6-2	27	183	303	60.4
15.	Kalisa Davis, Maryland	SR	6-2	24	143	237	60.3
16.	Karen Johnson, Delaware State	SR	6-2	28	172	286	60.1
17.	Sarrah Stricklett, Valparaiso	SO	6-1	29	153	255	60.0
18.	Angela Jackson, Texas	SR	6-4	27	193	322	59.9
19.	Orsi Farkas, New Hampshire	SO	6-2	27	169	283	59.7
20.	Jacki Raterman, Bowling Green	JR	6-0	29	183	307	59.6

STEALS

		CL	HT	G	NO.	AVG
1.	Ticha Penicheiro, Old Dominion	SR	5-11	32	161	5.0
2.	Colleen Cook, Youngstown State	SR	5-8	31	145	4.7
3.	Shiakiea Carter, Grambling	SR	5-8	30	123	4.1
4.	Cher Dyson, Stetson	FR	5-5	26	99	3.8
5.	Jen Ricco, Temple	SR	5-9	27	96	3.6
6.	Tamika Stukes, New Mexico	SR	5-3	33	115	3.5
7.	Denee Rivera, Hofstra	SO	5-6	28	97	3.5
7.	Tessa Fields, Tenn.-Martin	JR	5-5	28	97	3.5
9.	Dalma Ivanyi, Florida Int'l	JR	5-10	31	106	3.4
10.	Dione Smith, South Fla.	SO	5-5	27	92	3.4
11.	Tori Boudreaux, NE Illinois	SR	5-1	26	88	3.4
12.	Janee Young, Fresno State	SR	5-9	27	91	3.4
12.	Shniece Perry, Towson	SO	5-11	27	91	3.4
14.	Kasie Pittman, Tulsa	SO	5-8	26	87	3.3
15.	Nani Cockett, Hawaii	SR	6-0	28	93	3.3
16.	Felicia Bryant, Hampton	SO	5-9	29	96	3.3
17.	Allison Feaster, Harvard	SR	5-11	28	92	3.3
18.	Kesha Wade, Long Beach State	SO	5-9	26	85	3.3
18.	Dawn Halfaker, Army	FR	5-9	26	85	3.3
20.	Nykesha Sales, Connecticut	SR	6-0	30	98	3.3
20.	Becky Hammon, Colorado State	JR	5-6	30	98	3.3

FREE THROW PCT. (MIN. 2.5 MADE PER GAME)

		CL	HT	G	FT	FTA	PCT
1.	Kristi Green, Indiana	JR	5-4	33	99	109	90.8
2.	Ann Marie Martin, Youngstown St.	SR	6-2	31	107	118	90.7
3.	Amy Towne, Arkansas State	SR	5-11	30	105	116	90.5
4.	Chrissy Roberts, Eastern Ky.	SR	5-6	28	91	102	89.2
5.	Becky Hammon, Colorado State	JR	5-6	30	148	167	88.6
6.	Jennifer Marlow, Butler	JR	5-11	31	109	124	87.9
7.	Rebecca Viverette, N.C.-Green.	SR	6-0	30	100	114	87.7
8.	Dawn Zerman, Kent	SO	5-7	30	177	202	87.6
9.	Amy Geren, Clemson	JR	5-11	33	92	105	87.6
9.	Nicole Erickson, Duke	JR	5-6	32	92	105	87.6
11.	Cindy Blodgett, Maine	SR	5-9	26	176	201	87.6
12.	Karen Shutz, Iona	SO	5-4	26	69	79	87.3
13.	Katie Voigt, Wisconsin	JR	6-1	31	104	120	86.7
14.	Katrina Hibbert, LSU	SO	5-11	32	97	112	86.6
15.	Jacki Raterman, Bowling Green	JR	6-0	29	83	96	86.5
16.	Kari Gallup, Brigham Young	SR	5-10	29	89	103	86.4
17.	Betsy Foy, Georgia Tech	FR	5-10	24	76	88	86.4
18.	Angela Zampella, St. Joseph's	JR	5-7	31	132	153	86.3
19.	Sara Puthoff, Bowling Green	SR	5-9	29	125	145	86.2
20.	Ukari Figgs, Purdue	JR	5-9	33	134	156	85.9

3PT FG PCT (MIN. 1.5 3P/G AND 40%)

		CL	HT	G	FG	FGA	PCT
1.	Sarah Lenschow, Valparaiso	SO	6-0	28	56	106	52.8
2.	Jenny Schmidt, Illinois State	JR	5-9	27	77	153	50.3
3.	Kylie Page, Hawaii	SO	6-0	26	48	99	48.5
4.	Joanna Smith, Washington St.ate	SO	5-10	23	39	84	46.4
5.	Amy Towne, Arkansas State	SR	5-11	30	74	161	46.0
6.	Vanessa Nygaard, Stanford	SR	6-1	26	68	148	45.9
7.	Chrissy Roberts, Eastern Ky.	SR	5-6	28	67	146	45.9
8.	Stacy Frese, Iowa State	SO	5-8	33	100	219	45.7
9.	Jennifer O'Brien, Davidson	SO	5-6	27	46	101	45.5
10.	Laurie Townsend, Western Ky.	SR	5-7	35	58	128	45.3
11.	Lauren Cooper, Montana	SO	6-0	30	55	122	45.1
11.	Cal Bouchard, Boston College	SO	5-7	28	55	122	45.1
13.	Melanie Pearson, UCLA	SO	6-1	29	49	109	45.0
14.	Markita Griffin, Ball State	JR	5-5	26	49	110	44.5
15.	Jenny Higgins, Villanova	SR	5-10	29	100	225	44.4
16.	Jessica Muskey, William & Mary	SO	5-7	27	53	123	43.1
17.	Suzie Miller, Harvard	JR	6-0	28	47	110	42.7
18.	Sonya Bearden, Northwestern St.	JR	5-6	28	76	178	42.7
19.	Aubrey Eblin, Old Dominion	JR	5-8	32	97	228	42.5
20.	Julie Krommenhoek, Utah	SR	5-9	27	98	231	42.4

NCAA WOMEN'S TEAM STATS

SCORING OFFENSE

	G	W-L	PTS.	AVG.
1. Tennessee	39	39- 0	3464	88.8
2. Louisiana Tech	35	31- 4	3018	86.2
3. Stanford	27	21- 6	2314	85.7
4. Western Kentucky	35	26- 9	2979	85.1
5. Stephen F. Austin	29	25- 4	2423	83.6
6. Connecticut	37	34- 3	3070	83.0
7. UC Santa Barbara	33	27- 6	2727	82.6
8. Grambling	30	23- 7	2469	82.3
9. Arkansas State	30	20-10	2438	81.3
10. Youngstown State	31	28- 3	2511	81.0
11. Memphis	30	22- 8	2429	81.0
12. Colorado State	30	24- 6	2426	80.9
13. Drake	30	25- 5	2405	80.2
14. UCLA	29	20- 9	2317	79.9
15. Florida International	31	29- 2	2468	79.6
16. Hawaii	28	24- 4	2229	79.6
17. Bowling Green	29	21- 8	2297	79.2
18. North Carolina	34	27- 7	2692	79.2
19. Old Dominion	32	29- 3	2532	79.1
20. Illinois	30	20-10	2369	79.0
21. Kent	30	23- 7	2357	78.6
22. Butler	31	25- 6	2426	78.3
23. Arizona	30	23- 7	2342	78.1
24. Holy Cross	30	21- 9	2336	77.9
24. Maine	30	21- 9	2336	77.9
26. Nebraska	33	23-10	2558	77.5
27. Georgia Southern	29	18-11	2236	77.1
28. Jackson State	29	21- 8	2230	76.9
29. SW Missouri State	30	24- 6	2302	76.7
30. Texas Tech	31	26- 5	2372	76.5

SCORING DEFENSE

	G	W-L	PTS.	AVG.
1. Princeton	26	16-10	1415	54.4
2. Old Dominion	32	29- 3	1777	55.5
3. Florida International	31	29- 2	1739	56.1
4. Villanova	29	19-10	1637	56.4
5. New Mexico	33	26- 7	1869	56.6
6. St. Joseph's	31	19-12	1757	56.7
7. Auburn	27	16-11	1531	56.7
7. Texas-Arlington	27	18- 9	1531	56.7
7. Utah	27	21- 6	1531	56.7
10. Massachusetts	30	19-11	1712	57.1
11. Montana	30	24- 6	1722	57.4
12. Texas-San Antonio	28	18-10	1611	57.5
13. Wis.-Green Bay	30	21- 9	1729	57.6
14. Liberty	29	28- 1	1673	57.7
15. Louisiana Tech	35	31- 4	2046	58.5
16. Tulane	28	21- 7	1642	58.6
17. Tennessee	39	39- 0	2290	58.7
18. Loyola (Md.)	29	20- 9	1704	58.8
19. Navy	29	23- 6	1709	58.9
20. Oklahoma State	31	20-11	1831	59.1
21. Yale	26	14-12	1540	59.2
22. Santa Clara	31	23- 8	1839	59.3
23. Connecticut	37	34- 3	2196	59.4
24. St. Peter's	28	19- 9	1662	59.4
25. Florida A&M	28	19- 9	1666	59.5
26. Howard	30	23- 7	1788	59.6
27. Texas Tech	31	26- 5	1860	60.0
28. UC Irvine	27	16-11	1625	60.2
29. Maryland	28	15-13	1686	60.2
30. Northern Arizona	28	22- 6	1692	60.4

WON-LOST PERCENTAGE

	W-L	PCT.		W-L	PCT.
1. Tennessee	39- 0	1.000	15. Montana	24- 6	.800
2. Liberty	28- 1	.966	15. SW Missouri State	24- 6	.800
3. Florida International	29- 2	.935	18. North Carolina	27- 7	.794
4. Connecticut	34- 3	.919	19. Navy	23- 6	.793
5. Old Dominion	29- 3	.906	20. New Mexico	26- 7	.788
6. Youngstown State	28- 3	.903	21. Northern Arizona	22- 6	.786
7. Louisiana Tech	31- 4	.886	22. North Carolina State	25- 7	.781
8. Stephen F. Austin	25- 4	.862	23. Stanford	21- 6	.778
9. Hawaii	24- 4	.857	23. Utah	21- 6	.778
10. Texas Tech	26- 5	.839	25. Toledo	24- 7	.774
11. Drake	25- 5	.833	26. American	23- 7	.767
12. Harvard	23- 5	.821	26. Arizona	23- 7	.767
13. UC Santa Barbara	27- 6	.818	26. Grambling	23- 7	.767
14. Butler	25- 6	.806	26. Howard	23- 7	.767
15. Colorado State	24- 6	.800	26. Kent	23- 7	.767

WNBA STANDINGS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	20	10	.667	—
Charlotte	18	12	.600	2
New York	18	12	.600	2
Detroit	17	13	.567	3
Washington	3	27	.100	17

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	27	3	.900	—
Phoenix	19	11	.633	8
Los Angeles	12	18	.400	18
Sacramento	8	22	.267	19
Utah	8	22	.267	19

ALL-WNBA FIRST TEAM

G—Cynthia Cooper, Houston (MVP)
G—Suzie McConnell Serio, Cleveland
C—Jennifer Gillom, Phoenix
F—Sheryl Swoopes, Houston
F—Tina Thompson, Houston

WNBA PLAYOFFS

Eastern Finals

Game 1: Houston 85, Charlotte 71
Game 2: Houston 77, Charlotte 61

Western Finals

Game 1: Phoenix 78, Cleveland 68
Game 2: Cleveland 67, Phoenix 66
Game 3: Phoenix 71, Cleveland 60

WNBA CHAMPIONSHIP

Game 1 Phoenix 54, Houston 51

PHOENIX—Jennifer Gillom hit a basket in the lane with 8.9 seconds left as Phoenix defeated defending champion Houston in the opening game of the WNBA Finals. Gillom, who finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds, set up her winning basket by blocking a shot attempt by **Kim Perrot** on the previous possession. League MVP **Cynthia Cooper** topped Houston with 29 points. All-WNBA selections **Sheryl Swoopes** and **Tina Thompson** struggled from the field, combining to shoot 10 of 41. **Michelle Griffiths** had 8 points and 12 rebounds for the Mercury, who shot 35 percent from the field.

Game 2 Houston 74, Phoenix 69 (OT)

HOUSTON—Cynthia Cooper had another outstanding game, scoring 19 of her 27 points after halftime as the Comets evened the series. Houston trailed 62-50 with 7:24 remaining in regulation before rallying to force overtime. **Sheryl Swoopes** had 14 points and 31 rebounds for the defending champion Comets. Cooper made the first basket of overtime until Cooper hit a layup to put Houston up 68-66 with 3:19 to play. **Jennifer Gillom**'s basket with 2:29 to play pulled the Mercury within 70-69 but it was Phoenix's last points of the game. Gillom, who averaged 20.8 points per game in the regular season, scored just 8. Michelle Timms led Phoenix with 21 points.

Game 3 Houston 80, Phoenix 71

HOUSTON—Cynthia Cooper topped her MVP season with 23 points to lead Houston to its second WNBA title. The Comets' championship was a little tougher this time around as the Mercury, which finished eight games behind Houston in the regular season, pushed the champs to the limit. **Sheryl Swoopes** scored 11 of her 16 points in the final 9:13 to help Houston. **Michelle Griffiths** led Phoenix with a career-high 24 points. **Jennifer Gillom** scored 20, her best output of the series. After trailing by six points at halftime, the Mercury started the second half with a 10-2 run to take the lead. Led by Swoopes, the Comets fought back to take a 68-61 lead with 6:14 left and never trailed again.

"Allez les bleus" or "Go you blues" was the catch phrase for France '98 and, when the 16th quadrennial World Cup concluded with the hosts being crowned champions at the Stade de France in Paris on July 12, it seemed only fitting.

France had gone where it needed to go, and surprised quite a few pundits along the way.

This World Cup would have many firsts, starting with the first 32-team field. The addition of eight teams raised the total of games from 52 in U.S.A. '94 to 64. Eight groups of four teams battled for three games in the cities of Paris (which had two venues, the newly-built Stade de France and legendary Parc des Princes), Montpellier, Saint Etienne, Lens, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Lyon and Nantes to determine the top two teams that advanced to the second round.

The Cup commenced on June 10 with defending champions Brazil defeating Scotland 2-1 at the Stade de France in one of the most anticipated first games in Cup history.

Along the way, the tournament would have its share of upsets and thrashings before concluding a little more than a month later with the final, also involving the Brazilians.

But Brazil's success in the opening game would not be matched in the final. The Brazilians were looking to become the first team to win back-to-back Cups since their country performed that feat in 1958 and 1962, and they were also trying to break the jinx of a South American team not winning a Cup in Europe since 1958.

Maybe the French had even more to overcome. They had never reached a final game, falling in the semifinals in 1982 and 1986, and they were trying to become the first host country to win since Argentina in 1978.

Approximately two billion television viewers worldwide watched as France became the first team other than Brazil, Argentina, Germany, England, Italy or Holland to play in a title game since 1962.

But the French proved their worth by dominating the final and coming away with the Cup...

JUNE 10: Brazil beats Scotland 2-1 in the official opening game while Norway and Morroco draw 2-2 in Montpellier.

JUNE 11: A penalty by **Roberto Baggio**, who had missed the final penalty of U.S.A. '94 to hand the Cup to the Brazilians, helps Italy salvage a 2-2 draw with Chile in Bordeaux. Cameroon and Austria play to a 1-1 draw in Toulouse.

JUNE 12: Paraguay and Bulgaria play a scoreless draw in Montpellier while Denmark edges Saudi Arabia 1-0 in Lens and France makes easy work of South Africa 3-0 in Marseille.

JUNE 13: The Cup's first upset comes in Nantes where Nigeria uses goals from **Garba Lawal** and **Sunday Oliseh** in the final 20 minutes to defeat Spain 3-2. Mexico starts its Cup well in Lyon by defeating South Korea 3-1, behind two goals from **Luis Hernandez**. Longtime rivals Holland and Belgium play to a scoreless draw in Paris.

JUNE 14: Argentina defeats Japan 1-0 in Toulouse, Yugoslavia tames Iran 1-0 in Saint Etienne and Croatia shows what is to come with a 3-1 win over Jamaica in Lens.

JUNE 15: England dominates Tunisia 2-0 in Marseille while Romania defeats Colombia 1-0 in Lyon and Germany makes easy work of the United States 2-0 in Paris.

JUNE 16: Scotland and Norway draw 1-1 in Bordeaux as Brazil becomes the first team to qualify for the second round with a 3-0 win over Morocco in Nantes.

JUNE 17: Despite **Marcelo Salas'** third goal in two games, the Chileans can only manage a 1-1 tie against Austria in Saint Etienne. **Christian Vieri** scores twice in Montpellier as Italy handle Cameroon 3-0.

JUNE 18: South Africa pulls off a surprising 1-1 draw with Denmark in Toulouse as France joins Brazil in the second round with an impressive 4-0 win over Saudi Arabia in Paris.

JUNE 19: Nigeria hangs on to a 1-0 win over Bulgaria in Paris to become the third team to qualify while Spain settles for its second draw with a scoreless contest with Paraguay in Saint Etienne.

JUNE 20: Croatia defeats Japan 1-0 in Nantes to secure a second-round berth. Belgium sees a two-goal lead turn into a 2-2 draw with Mexico in Bordeaux. Five different Dutch players scores as Holland routs South Korea 5-0 in Marseille.

JUNE 21: In a fierce battle in Lens, Germany and Yugoslavia draw 1-1. Argentina joins Croatia in the second round with a 5-0 trouncing of Jamaica in Paris. Iran hands the United States one of its toughest defeats ever in a 2-1 match in Lyon.

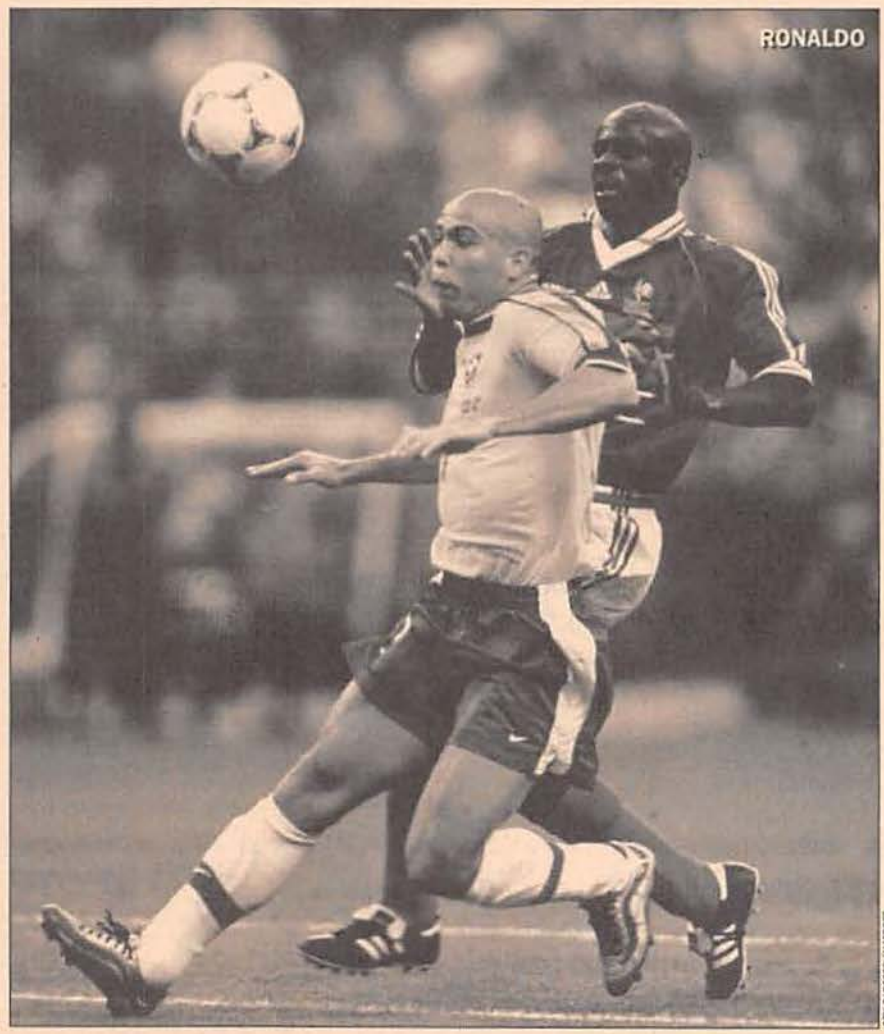
JUNE 22: Colombia defeats Tunisia 1-0 in Montpellier. Romania shocks England 2-1 in Toulouse on a 90th minute goal from **Viorel Moldovan**.

JUNE 23: The third and final games of the first round begin with Italy defeating Austria 2-1 in Paris on goals by Vieri and Baggio to take the top spot in Group B. Chile barely manages to hang on to a 1-1 draw with Cameroon in Nantes to take the second spot behind the Italians. In Group A action, Brazil is shocked by Norway 2-1 in Marseille and Morocco defeats a disappointing Scotland squad 3-0 in Saint Etienne. Brazil claims the top berth into the second round and Norway squeaks by with the second spot.

JUNE 24: France wraps up its Group C first round with a 2-1 win over Denmark in Lyon. The French outscored their opponents 9-1 en route to become the only team to win all three of its first-round games. South Africa and Saudi Arabia battle to a 2-2 tie in Bordeaux. Group D was known as the group of death and Spain was its biggest fatality. Despite winning 6-1 over the Bulgarians in Lens, the Spaniards were eliminated when Paraguay knocked off group leader Nigeria 3-1 in Toulouse.

JUNE 25: Mexico overcame an early 2-0 deficit to draw with Holland 2-2 in Saint Etienne to finish second to the Dutch in Group E. Despite being eliminated, South Korea battled to a 1-1 draw with Belgium in Paris to eliminate the Belgians. Germany garnered the top spot in Group F by defeating Iran 2-0 in Montpellier while Yugoslavia advanced with a 1-0 win over the United States in Nantes.

JUNE 26: With both Group H teams already qualified for the next round, Argentina defeated Croatia 1-0 in Bordeaux to grab the top spot. Jamaica picked up its lone win in Lyon


RONALDO

BEN RADFORD/ALLSPORT

with a 2-1 decision over Japan. Romania, which had already qualified for the next round, almost lost its top seed when Tunisia took an early lead. But Moldovan scored in the 72nd minute to salvage a 1-1 tie in Paris. England easily dispensed with Colombia 2-0 in Lens to take the second spot in Group G.

JUNE 27: The much-anticipated, second-round game between the dazzling South American offenses of Brazil and Chile fails to appear as Brazil plays arguably its best game of the tournament. **Ronaldo** and **Cesar Sampaio** score twice while Chile's duo of **Ivan Zamarano** and **Salas** struggles throughout in 4-1 decision in Paris. In Marseille, **Vieri's** goal in the 18th minute stands up as Italy comes away with a 1-0 win over Austria.

JUNE 28: France's defense continues to lay its claim as the best but the offense sputters in its second-round game against Paraguay and its world-class goalkeeper **Jose Luis Chilavert**. The scoreless regulation in Lens forces the match into extra time and French defender **Laurent Blanc** scores a sudden-death, golden-goal in the 114th minute to hand "les bleus" the win. Denmark joins France in the quarterfinals with a 4-1 victory over Nigeria in Paris.

JUNE 29: In Toulouse, **Edgar David's** strike in the 90th minute propels Holland into the quarterfinals with a 2-1 win over Yugoslavia. Germany also advances with a 2-1 win over Mexico in Montpellier. **Jurgen Klinsmann** scores in the 75th minute to tie the game and **Oliver Bierhoff** tallies 11 minutes later to give the Germans the victory.

JUNE 30: Davor Suker converts a penalty just before halftime for the only goal in Croatia's 1-0 win over Romania in Bordeaux. England sees its hopes of winning the Cup for the first time since 1966 when Argentina wins 4-3 on penalties after drawing 2-2 at the end of extra time in Saint Etienne. The game saw the sending off of **David Beckham** of England for a retaliatory kick, a denied penalty appeal for handball on Argentina's **Javier Zanetti**, a wonderful goal by England teenager **Micheal Owen**, and a penalty shootout that finished with **Carlos Roa** stopping **David Batty's** shot.

JULY 3: The quarterfinals begin with another Brazil victory. **Bebeto** scores once and **Rivaldo** twice as the Brazilians hold off Denmark 3-2 in Nantes. In Paris, France again fails to score in regulation, as well as extra time, to send the 0-0 match against Italy to penalties. With France leading 4-3, Italy's **Luigi Di Biagio's** shot is stopped by **Fabian Barthez** to send the French into the semifinals.

JULY 4: For the second consecutive game, Holland uses a little last-minute magic to win. This time, **Dennis Bergkamp** volleys a ball across the goal and into the top right corner in the 90th minute to give the Dutch a 2-1 victory over Argentina in Marseille. Of the four quarterfinals, Croatia's match with Germany in Lyon proves to be the only blowout. **Robert Jarni**, **Goran Vlaovic** and Suker all score as the Croatians dominate the aging Germans 3-0.

JULY 7: In the Marseille semifinal against Holland, Brazil proves it has a little bit of luck to go along with all of its talent. After taking a 1-0 lead on a goal by Ronaldo in the first minute of the second half, Brazil can't contain the three-man attack of Holland and gives up the equalizer on a header by **Patrick Kluivert** in the 86th minute. After a scoreless extra time, Brazil goalkeeper Taffarel saves penalty shots by **Phillip Cocu** and **Ronald de Boer** to hand the Dutch a 4-2 loss on penalties.

JULY 8: At the Stade de France in Paris, the French overcome a 1-0 deficit to win 2-1 and advance to the final. **Suker** scores for Croatia in the first minute of the second half, but in the next minute French defender **Lillian Thuram** scores the first of two goals on the night to even the match. In the 70th minute, he scores again to send the French into the final. Even after going a man down when **Blanc** is red-carded for a foul on **Slaven Bilic**, the French defense doesn't break.

JULY 11: In the third-place game at Parc des Princes in Paris, Croatia proves it isn't done scoring by netting two goals (**Robert Prosinecki** scores in the 13th minute and **Suker** notches his tournament-high sixth goal in the 36th), while the disjointed Dutch settle for a goal by rising star **Boudewijn Zenden** in the 21st minute.

JULY 12: So it all comes down to the old guard versus the young upstart. Except the old guard fails to show up, at least in its previous form. **Zinedine Zidane**, who masterminded the French midfield throughout the Cup, moves to the forefront with the help of his forehead. The 25-year-old son of Algerian immigrants heads in goals in the 27th and 45th minutes to put France ahead, while the defense continues to contain **Ronaldo** (who suffered a seizure hours before the game but is still allowed to play). **Rivaldo** and **Bebeto**. **Emmanuel Petit** adds a final tally in the 90th minute to give France a 3-0 win and its first World Cup.

WORLD CUP STANDINGS AND RESULTS

FIRST ROUND (x-advanced to second round)

GROUP A	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
x-Brazil	2	1	0	6	3	6
x-Norway	1	0	2	5	4	5
Morocco	1	1	1	5	5	4
Scotland	0	2	1	2	6	1

June 10
Brazil 2, Scotland 1
Morocco 2, Norway 2
June 16
Scotland 1, Norway 1
Brazil 3, Morocco 0
June 23
Norway 2, Brazil 1
Morocco 3, Scotland 0

GROUP B	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
x-Italy	2	0	1	7	3	7
x-Chile	0	0	3	4	4	3
Austria	0	1	2	3	4	2
Cameroon	0	1	2	2	5	2

June 11
Chile 2, Italy 2
Cameroon 1, Austria 1
June 17
Chile 1, Austria 1
Italy 3, Cameroon 0
June 23
Italy 2, Austria 1
Cameroon 1, Chile 1

GROUP C	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
x-France	3	0	0	9	1	9
x-Denmark	1	1	1	3	3	4
South Africa	0	1	2	3	6	2
Saudi Arabia	0	2	1	2	7	1

June 12
Denmark 1, Saudi Arabia 0
France 3, South Africa 0
June 18
South Africa 1, Denmark 1
France 4, Saudi Arabia 0
June 24
France 2, Denmark 1
South Africa 2, Saudi Arabia 2

GROUP D	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
x-Nigeria	2	1	0	5	5	6
x-Paraguay	1	0	2	3	1	5
Spain	1	1	1	8	4	4
Bulgaria	0	2	1	1	7	1

June 12
Paraguay 0, Bulgaria 0
June 13
Nigeria 3, Spain 2
June 19
Nigeria 1, Bulgaria 0
Spain 0, Paraguay 0
June 24
Spain 6, Bulgaria 1
Paraguay 3, Nigeria 1

GROUP E	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
x-Holland	1	0	2	7	2	5
x-Mexico	1	0	2	7	5	5
Belgium	0	0	3	3	3	3
South Korea	0	2	1	2	9	1

June 13
Mexico 2, South Korea 1
Holland 0, Belgium 0
June 20
Belgium 2, Mexico 2
Holland 5, South Korea 0
June 25
Holland 2, Mexico 2
Belgium 1, South Korea 1

GROUP F	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
x-Germany	2	0	1	6	2	7
x-Yugoslavia	2	0	1	4	2	7
Iran	1	2	0	2	4	3
United States	0	3	0	1	5	0

June 14
Yugoslavia 1, Iran 0
June 15
Germany 2, United States 0
June 21
Germany 2, Yugoslavia 2
Iran 2, United States 1
June 25
Germany 2, Iran 0
Yugoslavia 1, United States 0

GROUP G	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
x-Romania	2	0	1	4	2	7
x-England	2	1	0	5	2	6
Colombia	1	2	0	1	3	3
Tunisia	0	2	1	1	4	1

June 15
England 2, Tunisia 0
Romania 1, Colombia 0
June 22
Colombia 1, Tunisia 0
Romania 2, England 1
June 26
Romania 1, Tunisia 1
England 2, Colombia 0

GROUP H	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
x-Argentina	3	0	0	7	0	9
x-Croatia	2	1	0	4	2	6
Jamaica	1	2	0	3	9	3
Japan	0	3	0	1	4	0

June 14
Argentina 1, Japan 0
Croatia 3, Jamaica 1
June 20
Croatia 1, Japan 0
June 21
Argentina 5, Jamaica 0
June 26
Argentina 1, Croatia 0
Jamaica 2, Japan 1

SECOND ROUND

June 27
Italy 1, Norway 0
Brazil 4, Chile 1
June 28
France 1, Paraguay 0 (OT)
Denmark 4, Nigeria 1
June 29
Germany 2, Mexico 1
Holland 2, Yugoslavia 1
June 30
Croatia 1, Romania 0
Argentina 2, England 2; Argentina won 4-3 on penalty kicks

QUARTERFINALS

July 3
France 0, Italy 0; France won 4-3 on penalty kicks
Brazil 3, Denmark 2
July 4
Holland 2, Argentina 1
Croatia 3, Germany 0

SEMIFINALS

July 7
Brazil 1, Holland 1; Brazil won 4-2 on penalty kicks
July 8
France 2, Croatia 1

THIRD PLACE

July 11
Croatia 2, Holland 1

CHAMPIONSHIP

July 12
France 3, Brazil 0

ALMANAC

Highlights of the XVIII Winter Olympiad

February 6-22, 1998
AT NAGANO, JAPAN

Japan, a country obviously proud of its role as host, surely rolled out the red carpet for this one, and the Winter Games were a big hit. Japan earned 10 medals in the Games, and the sport the country seemed to take the most pride in was ski jumping. **Kazuyoshi Funaki** took a disappointing—for him at least—silver medal in the 90K jump, edged by **Jani Soininen** of Finland. (No reason to be disappointed, really, at being second-best in the world, despite what Nike says about second place.) But Funaki earned the adoration of his country by taking the gold in the 120K jump. And then the whole Japanese jump team did its country proud by holding off Germany and Austria in the team jump. The country was beside itself with joy, and the Games were in full swing... Germany won the most medals, led by **Katja Seizinger** and the rest of their women's skiing team. Seizinger took home two gold medals herself, and the country took all three medals in the women's combined. The German women's speedskating team also dominated, led to a sweep of the medals in the 3,000 meters by **Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann**... Canadian snowboarder **Ross Rebagliati** caused quite a stir. He won the first Olympic gold medal ever awarded in his sport—and had it taken away when he tested positive for marijuana. He protested, saying he hadn't smoked marijuana in more than a year, and that the test must have been skewed by second-hand pot smoke he'd inhaled at a party his friends had thrown to send him off to the Olympics. Apparently this argument worked, for his medal was reinstated on appeal... Austrian skier **Hermann Maier**, affectionately known as "The Herminator," suffered a spectacular crash in the men's downhill, ripping through a fence at nearly 70 miles per hour. But despite his sore shoulder and back and knee, he came back to win the gold medal in the Super-G and in the giant slalom... **Deborah Campagnoni** of Italy, after taking silver in the women's slalom, beat **Alexandra Meissnitzer** of Austria to earn gold in the women's giant slalom. In doing so, Campagnoni ran her streak of winning a gold medal to three straight Olympics... For the United States, **Picabo Street** pulled off an amazing rebound from a scary injury two weeks earlier to win the gold medal in the Super-G. The popular Street was gleeful as always... Russia took the top two spots in ice dancing, with gold going to **Yevgeny Platov** and **Pasha Grishuk**. But the competition was marred by a scoring system that made little sense to observers... **Dominik Hasek** led the Czech Republic to gold in men's ice hockey as NHL players participated on many teams. The United States team played poorly and was shut out of the medals. And to add insult to injury, the U.S. team was accused of trashing its hotel rooms after the loss. Although it was never established just which players were responsible, the whole affair was a black eye for the United States and for the NHL, which had hoped to use the Olympics as a showcase for its stars... Russia's **Ilia Kulik** won gold in men's figure skating, edging longtime Canadian star **Elvis Stojko**. The flamboyant Frenchman, **Phillippe Candeloro**, he of the propensity for removing his shirt on the ice, took home the bronze. And for the women, hopes of a medals sweep by the United States went awry as **Nicole Bobek** had a disappointing performance. But the top two spots would belong to young women from the United States. **Michelle Kwan**, considered by some to be the favorite going in, earned silver. The gold went to the graceful **Tara Lipinski**, who became the country's hero that night in Nagano.

MEDALS TABLE

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Germany	12	9	8	29
Norway	10	10	5	25
Russia	9	6	3	18
Austria	3	5	9	17
Canada	6	5	4	15
United States	6	3	4	13
Finland	2	4	6	12
Netherlands	5	4	2	11
Japan	5	1	4	10
Italy	2	6	2	10
France	2	1	5	8
China	0	6	2	8
Switzerland	2	2	3	7
Korea	3	1	2	6
Czech Republic	1	1	1	3
Sweden	0	2	1	3
Belarus	0	0	2	2
Kazakhstan	0	0	2	2
Bulgaria	1	0	0	1
Denmark	0	1	0	1
Britain	0	0	1	1
Australia	0	0	1	1
Belgium	0	0	1	1

MEDALISTS

ALPINE SKIING

Women's Super-G—Gold: Picabo Street, United States, 1:18.02; Silver: Michaela Dorfmeister, Austria, 1:18.03; Bronze: Alexandra Meissnitzer, Austria, 1:18.09

Men's Downhill—Gold: Jean-Luc Cretier, France, 1:50.11; Silver: Lasse Kjus, Norway, 1:50.51; Bronze: Hannes Trinkl, Austria, 1:50.63

Men's Combined—Gold: Mario Reiter, Austria, 3:08.06; Silver: Lasse Kjus, Norway, 3:08.65; Bronze: Christian Mayer, Austria, 3:10.11

Men's Super-G—Gold: Hermann Maier, Austria, 1:34.82; Silver: Didier Cuche, Switzerland, 1:35.43; Silver: Hans Knauss, Austria, 1:35.43

Women's Downhill—Gold: Katja Seizinger, Germany, 1:28.89; Silver: Pernilla Weiberg, Sweden, 1:29.18; Bronze: Florence Masnada, France, 1:29.37

Women's Combined—Gold: Katja Seizinger, Germany, 2:40.74; Silver: Martina Ertl, Germany, 2:40.92; Bronze: Hilde Gerg, Germany, 2:41.50

Men's Giant Slalom—Gold: Herman Maier, Austria, 2:38.51; Silver: Stefan Eberharter, Austria, 2:39.36; Bronze: Michael Von Gruenigen, Switzerland, 2:29.69

Women's Slalom—Gold: Hilde Gerg, Germany, 1:32.40; Silver: Deborah Compagnoni, Italy, 1:32.46; Bronze: Zali Steggall, Australia, 1:32.67

Women's Giant Slalom—Gold: Deborah Compagnoni, Italy, 2:50.59; Silver: Alexandra Meissnitzer, Austria, 2:52.39; Bronze: Katja Seizinger, Germany, 2:52.61

Men's Slalom—Gold: Hans-Petter Buraas, Norway, 1:49.31; Silver: Ole Christian Furuseth, Norway, 1:50.64; Bronze: Thomas Sykora, Austria, 1:50.68

HERMANN MAIER

SHAUN BOTTERILL/ALLSPORT

FREESTYLE SKIING

Men's Moguls—Gold: Jonny Mosely, United States, 26.93; Silver: Janne Lahtela, Finland, 26.00; Bronze: Sami Mustonen, Finland, 25.76

Women's Moguls—Gold: Tae Satoya, Japan, 25.06; Silver: Tatjana Mittermayer, Germany, 24.62; Bronze: Kari Traa, Norway, 24.09

Women's Aerials—Gold: Nikki Stone, United States, 193.00; Silver: Xu Nannan, China, 186.97; Bronze: Colette Brand, Switzerland, 171.83

Men's Aerials—Gold: Eric Bergoust, United States, 255.64; Silver: Sebastien Foucras, France, 248.79; Bronze: Dmitri Daschinsky, Belarus, 240.79

NORDIC SKIING

Men's 30K Classical—Gold: Mika Myllylae, Finland, 1:33.56; Silver: Erling Jevne, Norway, 1:35.27; Bronze: Silvio Fauner, Italy, 1:36.08

Women's 5K Classical—Gold: Larissa Lazutina, Russia, 17:39.9; Silver: Katerina Neumannova, Czech Republic, 17:42.7; Bronze: Bente Martinsen, Norway, 17:49.4

Women's 15K Classical—Gold: Olga Danilova, Russia, 46:55.4; Silver: Larissa Lazutina, Russia, 47:01.0; Bronze: Anita Moen-Guidon, Norway, 47:52.6

Men's 90K Jump—Gold: Jani Soininen, Finland, 234.5; Silver: Kazuyoshi Funaki, Japan, 233.5; Bronze: Andreas Widhoelzl, Austria, 232.5

Women's 10K Pursuit—Gold: Larissa Lazutina, Russia, 46:06.9; Silver: Olga Daniloza, Russia, 46:130.4; Bronze; Katerina Neumannova, Czech Republic, 46:14.2

Men's 10K Classical—Gold: Bjorn Daehlie, Norway, 27:24.5; Silver: Markus Gandler, Austria, 27:32.5; Bronze: Mika Myllylae, Finland, 27:40.1

Men's 15K Pursuit—Gold: Thomas Alsgaard, Norway, 1:07:01.7; Silver: Bjorn Daehlie, Norway, 1:07:02.8; Bronze: Vladimir Smirnov, Kazakhstan, 1:07:31.5

Men's Nordic Combined—Gold: Bjarte Engen Vik, Norway, 41:21.1; Silver: Samppa Lajunen, Finland, 41:48.6; Valerij Stoljarov, Russia, 41:49.3

Men's 120K Jump—Gold: Kazuyoshi Funaki, Japan, 272.3; Silver: Jani Soininen, Finland, 260.8; Bronze: Masahiko Harada, Japan, 258.3

Women's 20K Relay—Gold: Russia, 55:13.5; Silver: Norway, 55:38.0; Bronze: Italy, 56:53.3

Men's 120K Team Jump—Gold: Japan, 933.0; Silver: Germany, 897.4; Bronze: Austria, 881.5

Men's 4x10K Relay—Gold: Norway, 1:40:55.7; Silver: Italy, 1:40:55.9; Bronze: Finland, 1:42:15.5

Men's 4x7.5K Relay—Gold: Norway: 54:11.5; Silver: Finland, 55:30.4; Bronze: France, 55:53.4

Women's 30K Freestyle—Gold: Julija Tchepalova, Russia, 1:22:01.5; Silver: Stefania Belmondo, Italy, 1:22:11.7; Bronze: Larissa Lazutina, Russia, 1:23:15.7

Men's 50K Freestyle—Gold: Bjorn Daehlie, Norway, 2:05:08.2; Silver: Nicklas Jonsson, Sweden, 2:05:16.3; Bronze: Christian Hoffmann, Austria, 2:06:01.7

LUGE

Men's Singles—Gold: Georg Hackl, Germany, 3:18.44; Silver: Armin Zoeggler, Italy, 3:18.94; Bronze: Jens Mueller, Germany, 3:19.09

Men's Doubles—Gold: Steffan Krause and Jan Behrendt, Germany, 1:41.1; Silver: Christopher Thorpe and Gordy Sheer, United States, 1:41.1;

Bronze: Brian Martin and Brian Grimmette, United States, 1:41.2

Women's Singles—Gold: Silke Kraushaar, Germany, 3:23.77; Silver: Barbara Niedernhuber, Germany, 3:23.78; Bronze: Angelika Neuner, Germany, 3:24.25

FIGURE SKATING

Women—Gold: Tara Lipinski, United States; Silver: Michelle Kwan, United States; Bronze: Chen Lu, China

Men—Gold: Ilia Kulik, Russia; Silver: Elvis Stojko, Canada; Bronze: Phillippe Candeloro, France

Pairs—Gold: Oksana Kazakova and Artur Dmitriez, Russia; Silver: Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze, Russia; Bronze: Mandy Wotzel and Ingo Steuer, Germany

Ice Dancing—Gold: Yevgeny Platov and Pasha Grishuk, Russia; Silver: Anjelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsyannikov, Russia; Bronze: Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat, France

SPEEDSKATING

Men's 500M—Gold: Hiroyasu Shimizu, Japan, 1:11.35; Silver: Jeremy Witherspoon Canada, 1:11.84; Bronze: Kevin Overland, Canada, 1:11.86

Men's 5,000M—Gold: Gianni Romme, Netherlands, 6:22.20; Silver: Rintje Ritsma, Netherlands, 6:28.24; Bronze: Bart Veldkamp, Belgium, 6:28.31

Women's 3,000M—Gold: Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann, Germany, 4:07.29; Silver: Claudia Pechstein, Germany, 4:08.47; Bronze: Anna Friesinger, Germany, 4:09.44

Men's 1,500M—Gold: Aadne Sondral, Norway, 1:47.87; Silver: Ids Postma, Netherlands, 1:48.13; Bronze: Rintje Ritsma, Germany, 1:48.52

Women's 1,500M—Gold: Catriona LeMay-Doan, Canada, 76.60; Silver: Susan Auch, Canada, 76.93; Bronze: Tomomi Okazaki, Japan, 77.10

Men's 1,000M—Gold: Ids Postma, Netherlands, 1:10.64; Silver: Jan Bos, Netherlands, 1:10.71; Bronze: Hiroyasu Shimizu, Japan, 1:11.00

Women's 1,500M—Gold: Marianne Timmer, Netherlands, 1:57.58; Silver: Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann, Germany, 1:58.66; Bronze: Chris Witty, United States, 1:58.97

Men's 10,000M—Gold: Gianni Romme, Netherlands, 12:15.33; Silver: Bob DeJong, Netherlands, 13:25.76; Bronze: Rintje Ritsma, Netherlands, 13:28.19

Men's Short Track 1,000—Gold: Kim Dong-Sung, South Korea, 1:32.37; Silver: Jiajun Li, China, 1:32.42; Bronze: Eric Bedard, Canada, 1:32.66

Women's Short Track 3,000 Relay—Gold: South Korea, 4:16.26; Silver: China, 4:16.38; Bronze: Canada, 4:21.20

Women's 1,000M—Gold: Marianne Timmer, Netherlands, 1:16,.51; Silver: Chris Whitty, United States, 1:16.79; Bronze: Catriona LeMay-Doan, Canada, 1:17.37

Women's Short Track 500M—Gold: Annie Perreault, Canada, 46.56; Silver: Yang Yang, China, 46.62; Bronze: Chun Lee-Kyung, South Korea, 46.33

Women's 500M—Gold: Claudia Pechstein, Germany, 6:59.61; Silver: Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann, Germany, 6:59.65; Bronze: Lyudmila Prokasheva, Kazakhstan, 7:11.14

Men's Short Track 500M—Gold: Takafumi Nishitani, Japan, 42.86; Silver: An Yulong, China, 43.02; Bronze: Hitoshi Uematsu, Japan, 43.71

Women's Short Track 1000M—Gold: Chun Lee-Kyung, South Korea, 1:42.771 Silver: Yang Yang, China, 1:43.34; Bronze: Won Hye-Kyung, South Korea, 1:43.36

Men's Short Track 5000 Relay—Gold: Canada, 7:06.05; Silver: South Korea, 7:06.77; Bronze: China, 7:11.55

BOBSLED

Two-Man—Gold: Italy, 3:37.24; Gold: Canada, 3:37.24; Bronze: Germany, 3:37.89

Four-Man—Gold: Germany, 2:39.41; Gold: Switzerland, 2:39.41; Bronze: Great Britain, 2:40.06; Bronze: France, 2:40.06

ICE HOCKEY

Men—Gold: Czech Republic; Silver: Russia; Bronze: Finland

Women—Gold: United States; Silver: Canada; Bronze: Finland

BIATHLON

Men's 20K—Gold: Halvard Hanevold, Norway, 56:16.4; Silver:

Women's 15K—Gold: Yekaterina Dafovska, Bulgaria, 54:52.0; Silver: Yelena Petrova, Ukraine, 55:09.8; Bronze: Ursula Disl, Germany, 55:17.9

Women's 7.5K—Gold: Galina Koukleva, Russia, 23:08.0; Ursula Disl, Germany, 23:08.7; Katrin Apel, Germany, 23:32.4

Men's 10K—Gold: Ole Einer Bjoerndalen, Norway, 27:16.2; Silver: Frode Andresen, Norway, 28:17.8; Bronze: Ville Raikkonen, Finland, 28:21.7

Women's 30K Relay—Gold: Germany, 1:40:13.6; Silver: Russia, 1:40.25.2; Bronze: Norway, 1:40:37.3

Men's 30K Relay—Gold: Germany, 1:21:36.2; Silver: Norway, 1:21:56.3; Bronze: Russia, 1:22:19.3

CURLING

Women—Gold: Canada; Silver: Denmark; Bronze: Sweden

Men—Gold: Switzerland; Silver: Canada; Bronze: Norway

SNOWBOARDING

Men's Giant Slalom—Gold: Ross Rebagliatti, Canada, 2:03.96; Silver: Thomas Prugger, Italy, 2:03.98; Bronze: Ueli Kestenholz, Switzerland, 2:04.08

Women's Giant Slalom—Gold: Karine Ruby, France, 2:17.34; Silver: Heidi Renoth, Germany, 2:19.17; Bronze: Briggitte Koeck, Austria, 2:19.42

Men's Half Pipe—Gold: Gian Simmen, Switzerland, 85.2; Silver: Daniel Franck, Norway, 82.4; Ross Powers, United States, 82.1

Women's Half Pipe—Gold: Nicola Thost, Germany, 74.6; Stine Brune Kjeldaas, Norway, 74.2; Shannon Dunn, United States, 72.8

The Goodwill Games

The Goodwill Games had its share of high drama. But perhaps the most vivid memory had little to do with the winning or losing of a sporting event.

On the third day of the two-week competition, Chinese gymnast **Sang Lan** attempted a vault during warm-ups. Her landing went horribly wrong and she slammed head first onto the mat, suffering a fracture-dislocation of the spine at the base of the neck.

Over the next few days, competition continued throughout the New York City metropolitan area. But much of the focus turned to Lan's saga—surgery, her parents' arrival and the start of a long rehabilitation.

On-the-field activities were also filled with emotion. The admiration of continued success by America's track athletes and the U.S. women's soccer team, the bittersweet realization of **Jackie Joyner-Kersee** winning her final heptathlon, the elation of a return to dominance by the American women's swimming program and the nostalgic fondness of the amateur-only U.S. men's basketball squad were all part of the fourth Goodwill Games.

In track, Americans **Michael Johnson** and **Marion Jones** remained at the top of their events.

Johnson dominated the 400 with a fastest year-to-date time of 43.76. Along with **Antonio Pettigrew**, **Tyree Washington** and **Jerome Young**, Johnson also helped the U.S. set a world record in the 4x400-meter relay in 2:52.20.

Despite running into the wind and false-starting, Jones managed a 10.90 to take the women's 100 meters. She later added the 200-meter title in 21.80.

Joyner-Kersee edged out fellow American **DeDee Nathan** by 23 points to capture her final heptathlon.

In his first decathlon since the 1996 Olympics, **Dan O'Brien** came from second place after seven events to win the event. His last loss came in the 1992 Olympic Trials.

Maurice Greene claimed the fastest Goodwill Games human title with a time of 9.96 in the men's 100, while **Jeff Hartwig** won the pole vault with an American record of 19-8½.

In one of the few disappointments of the track competition, **Moses Kiptanui** of Kenya ruptured his Achilles' tendon midway through the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

In women's soccer, **Mia Hamm**, playing in her 96th international, scored both goals in a 2-0 win over China to give the Americans another title to add to their impressive list that includes the 1995 World Cup and the 1996 Olympic championships.

In swimming's dual-meet format, the U.S. women dominated a relatively unknown Chinese team 88-34 led by **Jenny Thompson**, who set a Goodwill Games record of 55.56 in the 100 freestyle. The American women also defeated the World All-Stars 65-57 and Germany 78-44. The American men dropped all three of their matches.

In basketball, the U.S. easily eliminated Lithuania in the semifinals and the defeated Australia 93-85 in overtime of the title match. Despite only training together for 10 days prior to the Games, the group of collegians managed to become the first U.S. amateur-only basketball team to win a major championship in 12 years.

In boxing, the U.S. managed only two golds. **Terence Shepherd** won the featherweight class while **Ricardo Williams Jr.** took top honors in the light welterweight division.

In figure skating, **Michelle Kwan** added a Goodwill gold to her two world titles by bouncing back from a rare fall to receive 5.9s for presentation. Russia's **Maria Butryskaya** took second.

In gymnastics, **Dominique Moceanu** became the first American to win the all-around title in the history of the Goodwill Games, edging out Romania's **Maria Olaru**. **Ivan Ivankov** of Belrus took the men's all-around title.

On the lighter side, **Bill May** finished second with teammate **Kristina Lum** to become the first mixed-gender duet to medal in a major international synchronized swimming competition.

1999 Calendar of Major Sporting Events

Date	Sport	Event	Location
1/1	NCAA	Outback Bowl	Tampa
1/1	NCAA	Gator Bowl	Jacksonville
1/1	NCAA	Cotton Bowl	Dallas
1/1	NCAA	Citrus Bowl	Orlando
1/1	NCAA	Hall of Fame Bowl	Tampa
1/1	NCAA	Rose Bowl	Pasadena, Calif.
1/1	NCAA	Sugar Bowl	New Orleans
1/2	NCAA	Orange Bowl	Miami
1/2-3	NFL	Playoffs begin	Various sites
1/4	NCAA	Fiesta Bowl	Tempe, Ariz.
1/7	PGA	Mercedes Champ	Kapalua, Hawaii
1/9-10	NFL	Divisional playoffs	Various sites
1/14	PGA	Sony Open	Honolulu
1/17	NFL	Conference champ	Various sites
1/18	Tennis	Australian Open	Melbourne
1/20	PGA	Bob Hope Classic	Indian Wells, Calif.
1/24	NHL	All-Star Game	Tampa
1/24	Autos	Indy 200	Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
1/28	PGA	Phoenix Open	Scottsdale, Ariz.
1/31	NFL	Super Bowl XXXIII	Miami
2/4	PGA	Pebble Beach Pro-Am	Pebble Beach, Calif.
2/7	NFL	Pro Bowl	Honolulu
2/11	PGA	Buick Open	La Jolla, Calif.
2/14	NASCAR	Daytona 500	Daytona Beach, Fla.
2/14	NBA	All-Star Game	Philadelphia
2/18	PGA	Nissan Open	Valencia, Calif.
2/24	PGA	Andersen Match Play	Carlsbad, Calif.
3/4	PGA	Doral-Ryder Open	Miami
3/6	NCAA	Indoor Track Champ	Indianapolis
3/8	Tennis	Newsweek Champ Cup	Indian Wells, Calif.
3/11	NCAA	Basketball tournament	Various sites
3/11	PGA	Honda Classic	Coral Springs, Fla.
3/15	Tennis	Lipton Championship	Key Biscayne, Fla.
3/25	PGA	Players Championship	Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.
3/25	LPGA	Nabisco Dinah Shore	Rancho Mirage, Calif.
3/26	NCAA	Women's Final Four	San Jose
3/27	NCAA	Final Four	St. Petersburg, Fla.
4/1	SR. PGA	The Tradition	Scottsdale, Ariz.
4/1	NCAA	Hockey championship	Anaheim, Calif.
4/5	MLB	Regular season begins	Various sites
4/8	PGA	The Masters	Augusta, Ga.
4/15	SR. PGA	Senior PGA Champ	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
4/15	PGA	MCI Classic	Hilton Head Island, S.C.
4/18	NHL	Regular season ends	Various sites
4/21	NBA	Regular season ends	Various sites
4/21	NHL	Playoffs begin	Various sites
4/22	PGA	Greater Greensboro	Greensboro, N.C.
4/24	NBA	Playoffs begin	Various sites
4/25	NASCAR	DieHard 500	Talladega, Ala.
4/29	PGA	Houston Open	The Woodlands, Texas
5/1	Horses	Kentucky Derby	Louisville
5/6	PGA	Entergy Classic	New Orleans
5/6	NCAA	Men's volleyball champ	Los Angeles
5/13	PGA	Byron Nelson Classic	Dallas
5/15	Horses	Preakness	Baltimore
5/17	Tennis	ATP World Champ	Dusseldorf, Germany
5/19	NCAA	Women's golf champ	Tulsa, Okla.
5/20	PGA	MasterCard Colonial	Fort Worth, Texas
5/20	NCAA	Women's tennis champ	Gainesville, Fla.
5/22	NCAA	Men's tennis champ	Athens, Ga.
5/24	Tennis	French Open	Paris
5/27	PGA	Kemper Open	Potomac, Md.
5/27	NCAA	Softball championship	Oklahoma City
5/29	NCAA	Lacrosse championship	College Park, Md.
5/30	Autos	Indianapolis 500	Indianapolis
6/2	NCAA	Men's golf champ	Chaska, Minn.
6/2	NCAA	Outdoor track champ	Boise, Idaho
6/3	PGA	Memorial Tournament	Dublin, Ohio
6/3	LPGA	U.S. Women's Open	West Point, Miss.
6/5	Horses	Belmont Stakes	Elmont, N.Y.
6/10	PGA	St. Jude Classic	Memphis, Tenn.
6/11	NCAA	Baseball championship	Omaha, Neb.
6/17	PGA	U.S. Open	Pinehurst, N.C.
6/19	Soccer	Women's World Cup	Various sites
6/21	Tennis	Wimbledon	Wimbledon, England
6/24	PGA	Buick Classic	Rye, N.Y.
6/24	LPGA	LPGA Championship	Wilmington, Del.
6/24	SR. PGA	Senior Players Champ	Dearborne, Mich.
7/1	PGA	Western Open	Lemont, Ill.
7/8	SR. PGA	Senior U.S. Open	Des Moines, Iowa
7/13	MLB	All-Star Game	Boston, Mass.
7/15	PGA	British Open	Carnoustie, Scotland
7/22	PGA	John Deere Classic	TBA
7/29	PGA	Greater Hartford Open	Cromwell, Conn.
7/29	LPGA	duMaurier Open	Calgary, Alberta
8/5	PGA	Buick Open	Grand Blanc, Mich.
8/7	NASCAR	Brickyard 400	Indianapolis
8/12	PGA	PGA Championship	Medinah, Ill.
8/19	PGA	Sprint International	Castle Rock, Colo.
8/26	PGA	WGC-NEC Invitational	Akron, Ohio
8/30	Tennis	U.S. Open	New York
9/2	PGA	Vancouver Open	Surrey, B.C.
9/5	NASCAR	Southern 500	Darlington, S.C.
9/5	NFL	Regular season starts	Various sites
9/9	PGA	Bell Canadian Open	Oakville, Ontario
9/16	PGA	B.C. Open	Endicott, N.Y.
9/23	PGA	Ryder Cup	Brookline, Mass.
10/7	PGA	Michelob Champ	Williamsburg, Va.
10/13	PGA	Las Vegas Invitational	Las Vegas
10/20	NCAA	Field hockey champ	Philadelphia
10/21	PGA	Disney World Classic	Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
10/28	PGA	Tour Championship	Houston
11/4	PGA	Am. Express Champ	TBA
11/6	Horses	Breeders Cup	Hallandale, Fla.
11/12	PGA	Shark Shootout	Thousand Oaks, Calif.
11/18	PGA	World Cup of Golf	TBA
11/27	PGA	Skins Game	La Quinta, Calif.
12/2	PGA	JC Penney Classic	Palm Harbor, Fla.
12/4	NCAA	Women's soccer champ	Greensboro, N.C.
12/10	PGA	Diners Club Matches	TBA
12/11	NCAA	Men's soccer champ	Richmond, Va.
12/18	Golf	Three Tour Challenge	TBA
12/19	NCAA	Women's volleyball	Madison, Wisc.
12/19	NCAA	Division I-AA football	Chattanooga, Tenn.
12/27	NFL	Regular season ends	Various sites

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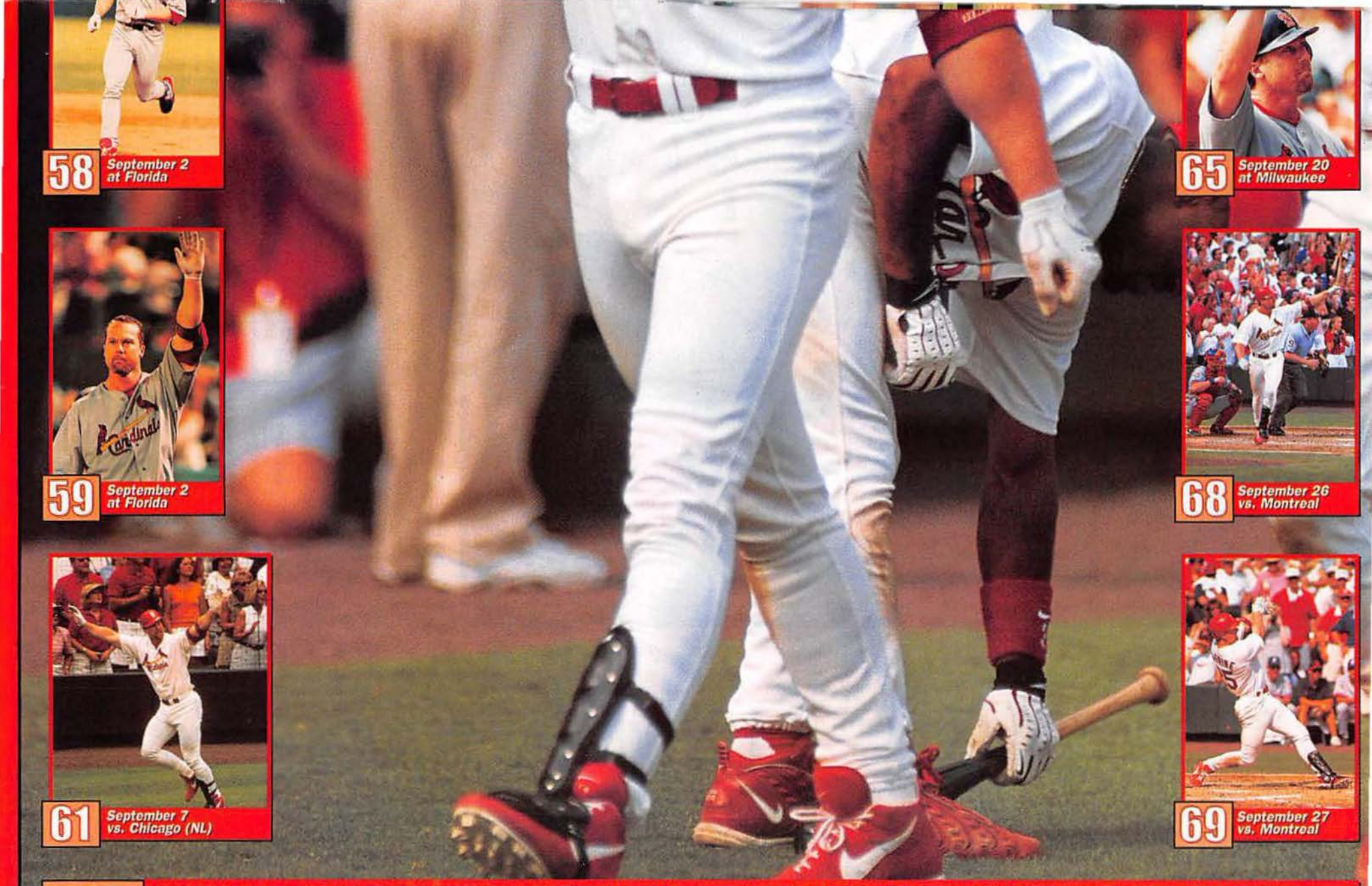


58 September 2 at Florida

59 September 2 at Florida

61 September 7 vs. Chicago (NL)

65 September 20 at Milwaukee

68 September 26 vs. Montreal

69 September 27 vs. Montreal

70 Mark McGwire's 70th home run on the final day of the season set the standard for home runs in one campaign. The historic blast was his second of the day, a 370-foot blast to left off Carl Pavano of the Montreal Expos. When the season finally came to a close, McGwire's home runs for the season totaled 29,598 feet in distance—nearly 400 feet higher than the peak of Mount Everest, or 5.6 miles worth of homers. Kudos to you, Mark, for an unforgettable season.

continued from page 57

had a huge serve, solid volley and the somewhat louder than usual support of Centre Court.

The pair exchanged sets and then traded huge serves until Sampras led 6-5 in the third set. Henman had game point and unleashed a wicket delivery up the middle that looked like an ace. But Sampras reacted quickly, extended as far as he could and somehow drilled a forehand winner up the line. The shot deflated Henman and the crowd, which was poised for a tiebreaker. Sampras won in four sets.

In the final, he met a familiar foe, **Goran Ivanisevic**, whom he had beaten three years earlier for the title. Ivanisevic had won the match of the tournament, defeating Krajicek 15-13 in the fifth set. "A horror thriller," Ivanisevic called it.

Ivanisevic started the final quickly, winning the first set against Sampras. He held two set points for a two sets to none lead, but netted two backhands.

Sampras seemed to gain confidence from his narrow escape. He took the third set, shrugged off the loss of the fourth and won the fifth going away.

It was his fifth Wimbledon and 11th Grand Slam, tying him for the second most in each category.

"I've always tried to stay humble through all my accomplishments," Sampras said. "It's hard to believe."

ALL-STAR BASH

It was supposed to be an offensive show and it didn't disappoint. In the year of the home run, the baseball All-Star game arrived in the thin air of Denver's Coors Field, where high scores are the norm.

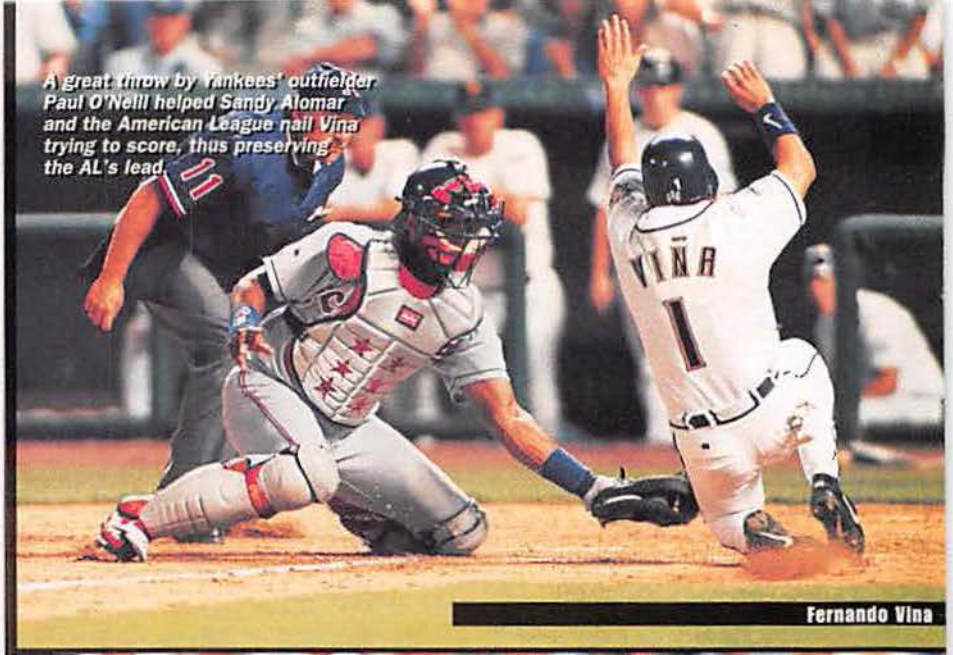
While only three home runs were hit—none by **Mark McGwire**, **Ken Griffey Jr.** or **Sammy Sosa**—the American and National leagues broke a 44-year record by combining for 21 runs. The teams combined for 31 hits.

Roberto Alomar won the MVP Award after hitting a home run and scoring two runs. He followed brother **Sandy**, the Cleveland Indians' catcher who won the 1997 MVP Award.

The game provided a pleasing assortment of great plays. Seattle shortstop **Alex Rodriguez** hit a home run in the top of the fifth to give the American League a 5-3 lead. **Barry Bonds** responded with a 451-foot, three-run blast that put the National League in front.

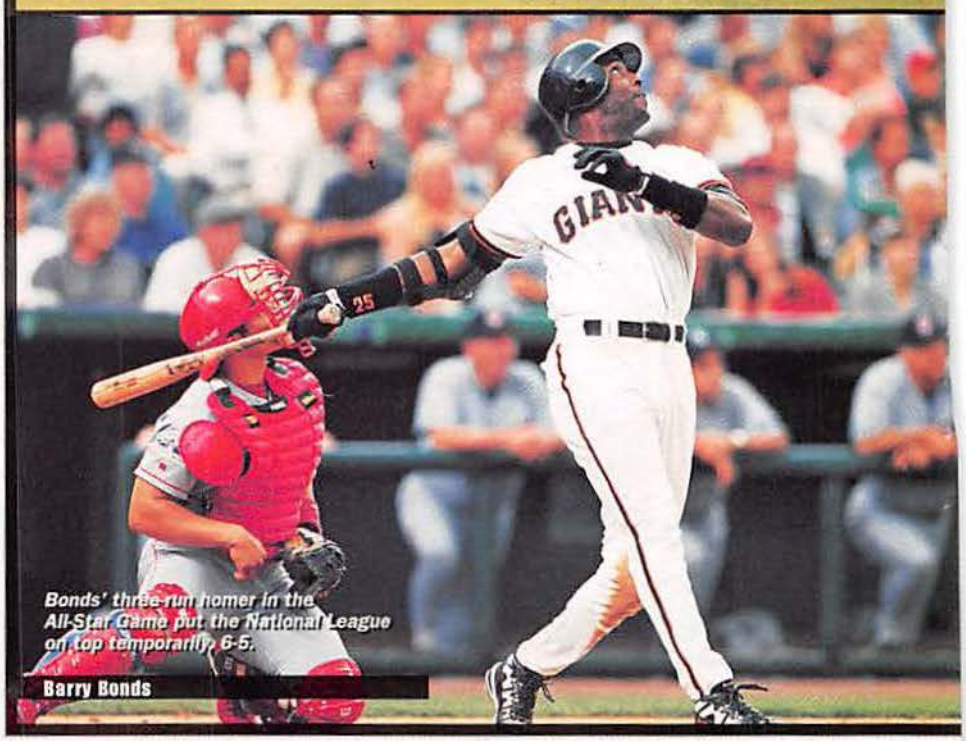
But the American League surged ahead again and by the seventh inning had extended its lead to 10-6. Alomar stole a base and scored in a three-run sixth. He hit his home run an inning later.

But the key plays of the game came on defense. In the eighth, with the National League threatening to claw back in, the Yankees' **Paul O'Neill** threw out the Brewers' **Fernando Vina** at home. Then the Indians' **Omar Vizquel** ended the inning by starting a fantastic double play.



A great throw by Yankees' outfielder Paul O'Neill helped Sandy Alomar and the American League nail Vina trying to score, thus preserving the AL's lead.

Fernando Vina



Bonds' three-run homer in the All-Star Game put the National League on top temporarily, 6-5.

Barry Bonds

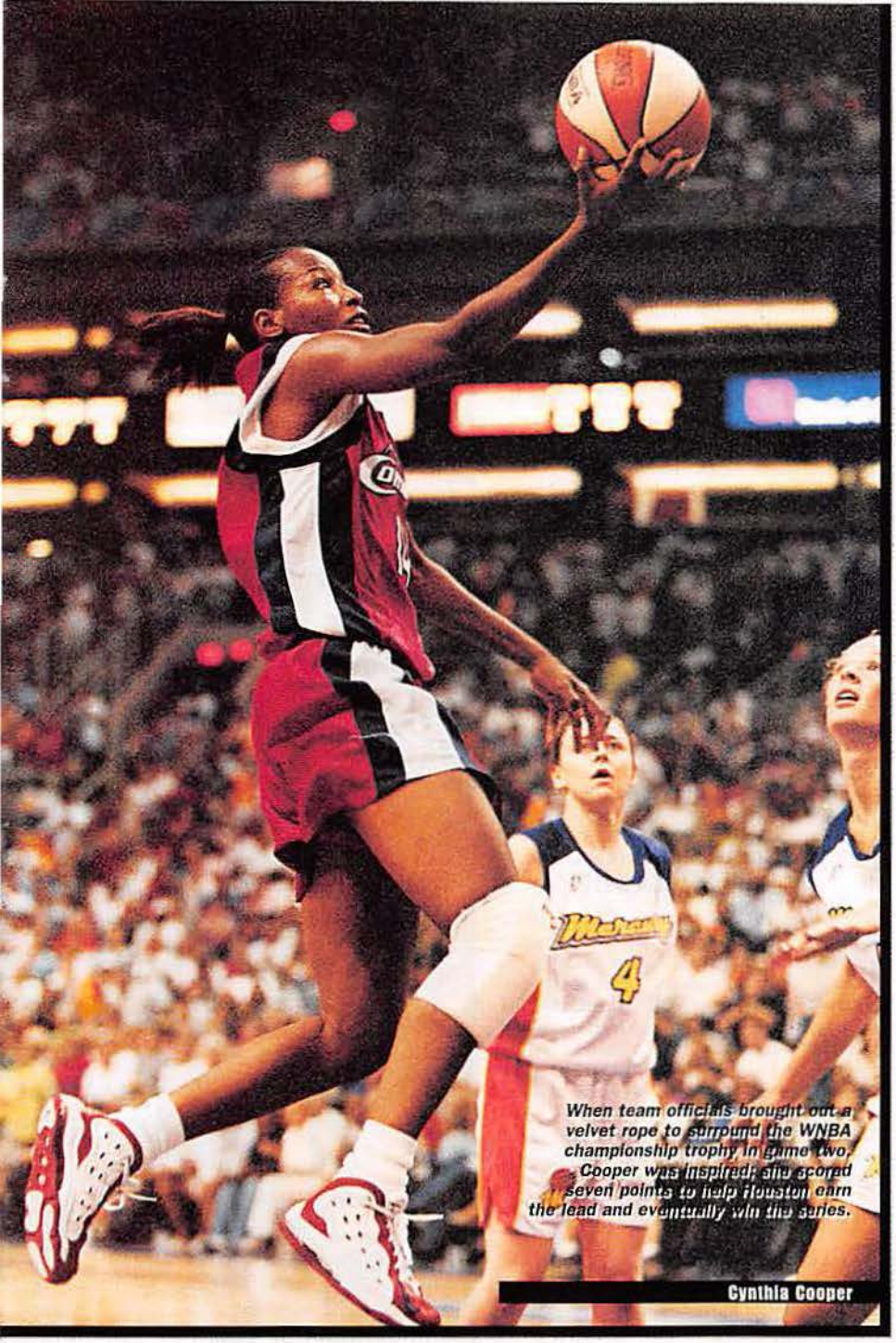
The National League never threatened again, and fans left happy after offensive fireworks and some dazzling fielding. It was an All-Star Game worthy of its hype.

FINALLY IT'S EARNHARDT

It seemed as if Dale Earnhardt would never win a Daytona 500. One of NASCAR racing's greatest drivers had finished second four times in his sport's most coveted title. The circumstances were occasionally bizarre, such as the year he was leading the race on the final lap but drove over some debris that pierced a tire.

This year was different for Earnhardt. Starting fourth in his Chevrolet Monte Carlo, he led the third fastest race in Daytona history for 107 of its 200 laps, including most importantly, the final 61

SuperSonics defeat the Portland Trailblazers 90-82 to win their third straight Western Division title and fourth in five years... **April 25**—The Boston Red Sox continue their surprising early success by edging Cleveland 3-2 for their sixth consecutive victory... **April 26**—The New York Knicks upend their hated rivals the Miami Heat 96-86 to even their playoff series at one game apiece... **April 28**—Who has been the Major Leagues' winningest pitcher over the last two months of regular-season play? Atlanta's **Tom Glavine**, who defeated Arizona 12-2 for his ninth consecutive win dating back to the final weeks of the 1997 season... **May 3**—UCLA defeats Pepperdine 15-11, 15-11, 15-7 to capture its third men's volleyball championship in four years... **May 8**—In his return to Minnesota, New York's **Chuck Knoblauch** goes 2-5 and scores the winning run in a 5-1 Yankees' victory... **May 23**—The New York Mets draw an extra 14,000 fans, most of whom buy tickets at the gate, to watch new acquisition **Mike Piazza** lead their team to a 3-0 win over the Milwaukee Brewers... **May 24**—The Utah Jazz defeat the Los Angeles Lakers 96-92 to complete their shockingly easy sweep in the Western Conference final... **May 27**—The Chicago Bulls rout Indiana 106-87 to take a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference play-



When team officials brought out a velvet rope to surround the WNBA championship trophy in game two, Cooper was inspired; she scored seven points to help Houston earn the lead and eventually win the series.

Cynthia Cooper

laps. He reached over 190 mph on the 183rd lap, almost as fast as **Terry LaBonte** had run in winning the pole position.

Earnhardt pocketed the first prize of $1.05 million. LaBonte, who finished a feisty second, took home $548,555. Last year's Winston Cup champion, **Jeff Gordon**, could do no better than 16th.

Still, Daytona '98 will be remembered as a tight competition. Almost half the field of 43 cars was on the lead draft heading into the final 100 miles. With a lap to go, Labonte, **Jeremy Mayfield**, who would finish third, and **Rusty Wallace**, were right behind Earnhardt as the race proceeded under an accident-induced caution flag.

Under NASCAR rules the cars were required to race to the finish line before lining up behind a pace car. But the three challengers became too preoccupied with beating each other out, allowing Earnhardt to sneak in first.

Earnhardt was visibly relieved and said that he had "watered up" in his car—a surprising admission for a driver nicknamed "The Intimidator" for his black cars and uncompromising racing style.

"It was my time, that's all I can say," he said later. "I've been passed here. I've run out of gas. I've been cut down by a tire. I've done it all. I wrote the book and this is the last chapter in this book."

SPEEDING COMETS

How quickly can a competition change? Just ask the Houston Comets, who won their second straight WNBA championship, and the Phoenix Mercury, the team they vanquished.

The Comets were a little more than seven minutes from losing their title in game two. They had lost the first game in Phoenix and despite a partisan, home crowd of 16,000—a sell-out at the Compaq Center—they trailed by 12 points with a little more than seven minutes remaining. Moreover, the usually unflappable team, which featured league MVP **Cynthia Cooper** and first-team All-WNBA players **Sheryl Swoopes** and **Tina Thompson**, looked dejected. The Comets played without energy and slunk back to their huddle during breaks in the action.

Even team officials figured the end was near, bringing out a velvet rope to surround the championship trophy. But Cooper noticed the rope during a timeout and didn't like what she saw. She reminded her teammates that there was still time to come back.

They did. The Houston team that returned to the court swarmed any Phoenix player with the ball and ran into their offensive end as if they were in a relay race. Cooper scored seven points, keying a 13-0 run that gave Houston the lead and made its fans go bonkers.

"MVP, MVP," they chanted.

Phoenix tied the game but Houston had stolen the momentum of the series. The Comets dominated overtime, winning 74-69. In the third and deciding game, they continued to control the action. Houston opened up a 10-point lead in the first half and fought off every Phoenix challenge to win by nine.

Houston had gone from the brink of a two-game wipeout to a richly deserved triumph. Cooper, who averaged 27 points per game, was named MVP. Swoopes, who dazzled fans with a series of shots, passes and stellar defensive plays to keep the Mercury at bay in the final game, could have just as

off series... **June 10**—In her latest comeback from assorted injuries, **Steffi Graf** defeats **Rennae Stubbs** 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 in the first round of the DFS Classic grass-court tournament in Birmingham, England... **June 13**—**Cesar Bazan** scrapes out a split decision over **Steve Johnston** to capture the World Boxing Council lightweight title... **June 24**—The Seattle Mariners beat the San Diego Padres 2-1 as **Ken Griffey Jr.** bashes his 30th home run of the year... **July 2**—**Greg Maddux** wins his 10th consecutive game—the second straight by shutout—as the Atlanta Braves top the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 6-0... **July 4**—Perennial underachiever Holland knocks off Argentina to advance to the semifinals of the World Cup... **July 5**—The San Diego Padres trounce the Colorado Rockies 7-2 to move a club-record 26 games above 500... **July 18**—The San Diego Padres defeat the Cincinnati Reds 2-1 to up their record to a franchise best 63-34... **July 20**—The St. Louis Cardinals rout the San Diego Padres 13-1 as **Mark McGwire** goes 4-4 and hits his 43rd home run... **July 25**—In San Diego's 6-5 win over Houston, **Greg Vaughn** joins the could-break-Roger-Maris'-record club, bashing his 37th home run... **August 1**—In France, at the World Junior track and field championships, England's **Christian Malcolm** adds the 200-meter

PHOTO CREDITS: JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT (VINA); BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT (BONDS); TODD WARSHAW/ALLSPORT (COOPER)

easily won the award.

It was a great recovery by a great and gritty team.

COLUMBUS STINGS THE RAYS

The league may not have a big television contract or the same soaring attendance figures as its counterpart, but the ABL's playoffs were every bit as exciting as the WNBA's. The level of play was probably also better.

The Columbus Quest repeated as champions, edging the expansion Los Angeles Sting Rays in five games of hard picks, tough rebounds and the occasional stray elbow. The rugged tenor of the games was much to Columbus' liking. They have forged a reputation for rugged play.

Yet Long Beach, which would fold in the off-season because of poor attendance, proved willing to match Columbus hard play for hard play. Behind the inside combination of **Yolanda Griffith**, the ABL's best player, and **Venus Lacy**, the Sting Rays swept the first two games at home.

But when the series returned to Columbus, the momentum shifted. The Sting Rays simply could not break through Columbus' stifling defense, shooting in the mid 20 percent range for games three and four.

Game four was better, though. It was also the roughest of the meetings, with both teams jostling for every possible edge. The teams combined for a hefty 65 free throws. Indeed, Columbus won on the strength of its free throw shooting, hitting 17 more of them than the Sting Rays.

Although Griffith scored only 10 points, Long Beach hung close to Columbus for the game. Even when Columbus, with its roaring capacity crowd of 6,313, seemed to put the game away in the final minutes, Long Beach made one final charge to cut the lead to 75-74 with 1:31 remaining.

But **Tonya Edwards** hit a layup and was fouled. Then **Valerie Still** blocked a 3-point shot. Columbus was on its way to an 86-81 win. The 36-year-old Still repeated as the playoffs' MVP, and then suggested that she would retire. But it was questionable whether her fans and teammates were going to let her go.

PAK AT THE U.S. OPEN

A major championship could not have dreamed up a more unlikely duel or asked for a more exciting, draining finish. When the year began, neither **Se Ri Pak** nor **Jenny Chuasiriporn**—both just 20 years old—merited even the slightest interest among LPGA players.

Pak had played largely in her native Korea. Chuasiriporn was competing for Duke University. Yet when the U.S. Women's Open finished its final round, they were the only players left standing at the tough Blackwolf Run Golf Course in Kohler, Wisconsin.

Tournament rules required an 18-hole playoff. Pak was the overwhelming favorite. She'd already won a major and ranked among the tour's best players. Chuasiriporn was an amateur who felt thrilled to compete in her first Open.

Yet it was the collegian who started quickly and Pak who looked nervous. Chuasiriporn birdied three of the first four holes to open a four stroke lead over Pak.

But then she tightened up. A triple bogie put Pak back in the running. From then on, the players were never separated by more than two shots. A Pak bogie on the 15th hole left the players tied.

Three holes later, she seemed in big trouble when her drive landed perilously close to a water hazard. She removed her shoe and sock—showing a ludicrously pronounced tan line around her ankle—scrambled out of the bordering deep grass and salvaged a bogie five. That was the best that a visibly nervous Chuasiriporn could do, although her 15-foot putt for par missed by just a half-inch.

Two holes later, with the playoff in its sudden death phase, Pak ended the drama with a birdie putt on the 10th hole.

"Good job," said Chuasiriporn, who planned to return to school.

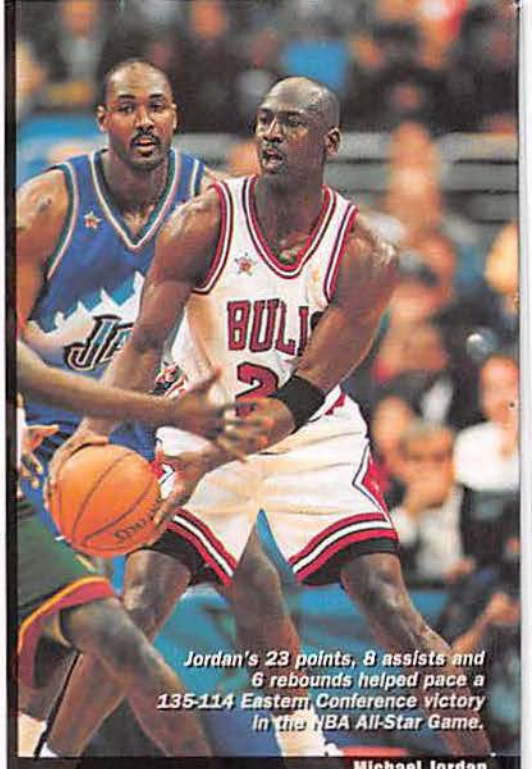
Pak smiled and cried. "First time I cry in my life," she said. "I'm really happy."

MICHAEL'S FINAL ALL-STAR BASH?

If it was Michael Jordan's final All-Star Game, it was a fitting finale. Playing in perhaps his favorite venue outside of Chicago, Madison Square Garden, Jordan won his third All-Star MVP award. Despite an upper respiratory infection that sapped his energy, Jordan played a game-high 32 minutes; scored 23 points; and added eight assists and six rebounds. His East team won going away 135-114.

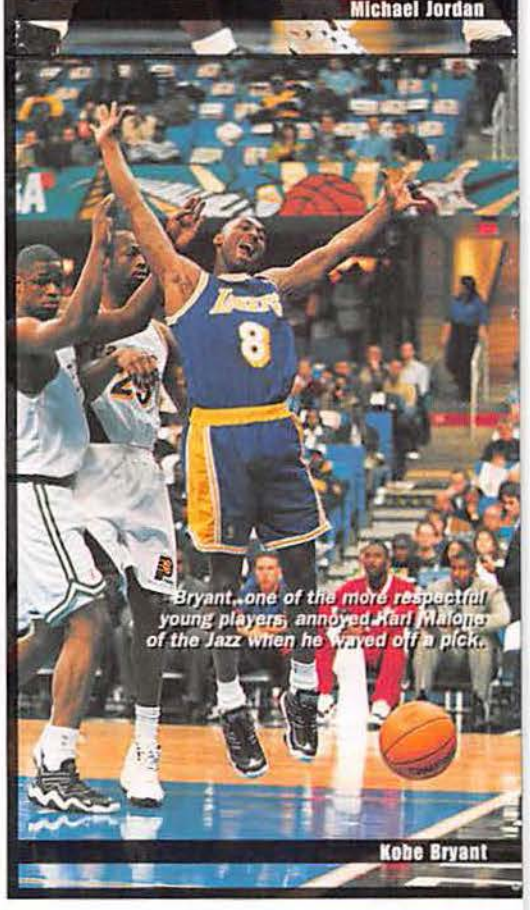
Along the way, he schooled his latest heir apparent **Kobe Bryant** with a variety of turnaround jump shots and acrobatic drives. The New York crowd whose hearts he'd broken so many times was appreciative.

Yet his performance also triggered bittersweet emotions. Jordan, **Karl Malone**, **Reggie Miller** and **David Robinson** represented an older set of players who'd been part of the NBA's golden age of the previous decade. Other familiar faces from this era were missing: **Patrick Ewing**, **Charles Barkley**, **Clyde Drexler**, **Scottie Pippen** and **Hakeem Olajuwon**, to name a few. In their place was a younger, brasher generation that critics felt had not accomplished enough to be cocky about. Bryant, who is considered one of the more likable, respectful younger



Jordan's 23 points, 8 assists and 6 rebounds helped pace a 135-114 Eastern Conference victory in the NBA All-Star Game.

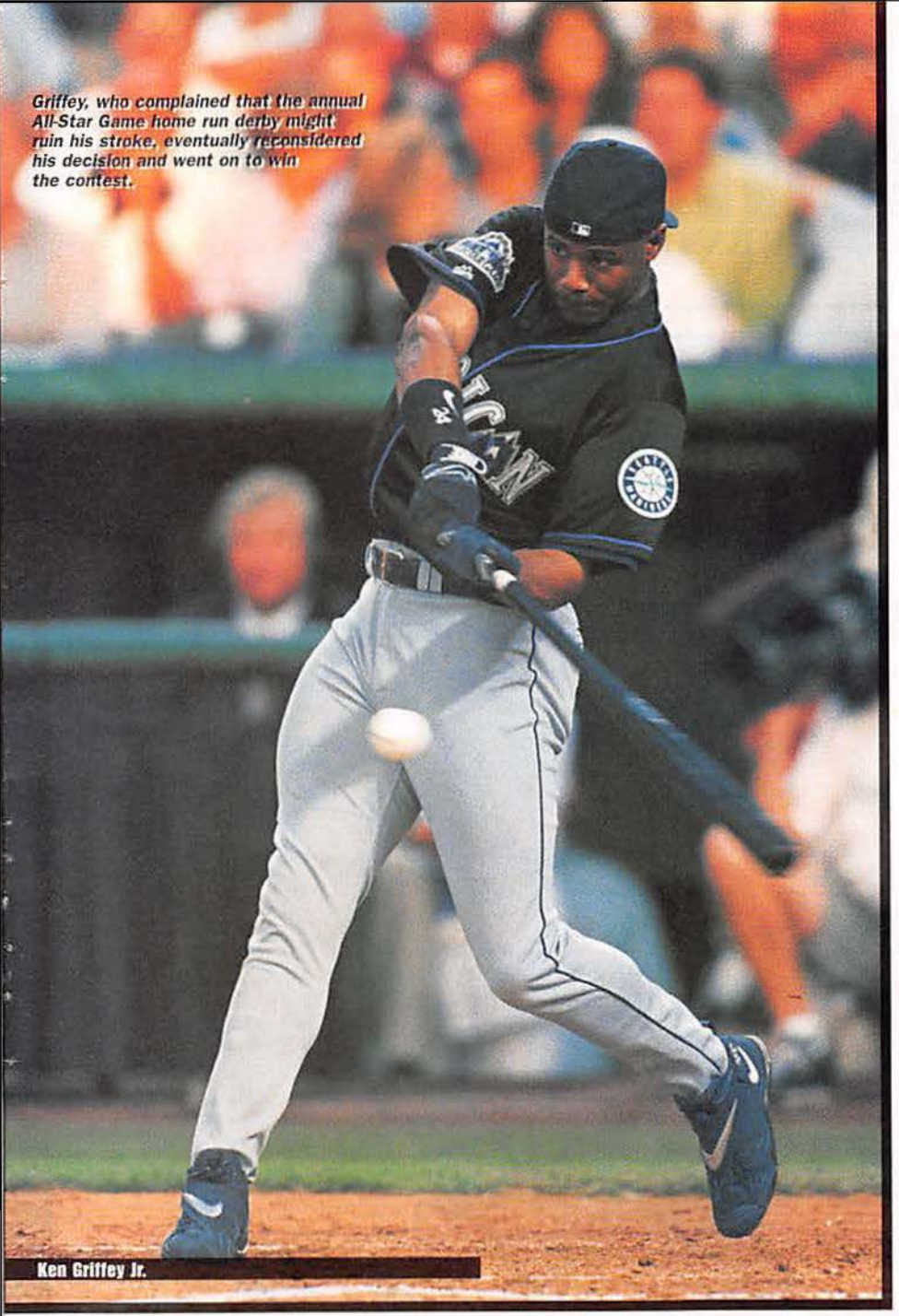
Michael Jordan



Bryant...one of the more respectful young players, annoyed Karl Malone of the Jazz when he waved off a pick.

Kobe Bryant

dash to the 100-meter title he'd already won... **August 2**—At the Mercedes Benz Cup, **Andre Agassi** defeats **Tim Henman** 6-4, 6-4 to extend his winning streak to 11 and capture his second straight title... **August 4**—In a 4-0 win over Detroit, Baltimore's **Mike Mussina** comes within four outs of a perfect game... **August 8**—The New York Yankees defeat the Kansas City Royals 14-1 to move 54 games over .500... **August 16**—On the 50th anniversary of **Babe Ruth**'s death, the Yankees' **Bernie Williams** socks a home run in the bottom of the ninth inning to give his team a dramatic 6-5 win over the Texas Rangers... **August 23**—**Greg Maddux** allows a, for him, incomprehensible 7 runs but defeats the Dodgers 12-7 and becomes the first National League pitcher to notch 17 wins... **August 26**—The Milwaukee Brewers defeat the Colorado Rockies 6-5 as manager **Phil Garner** posts his 500th victory... **August 27**—In the opening game of their WNBA championship series, the Phoenix Mercury top the Houston Comets 54-51... **August 28**—In his first return to Dodger Stadium since Los Angeles traded him, **Mike Piazza** leads the New York Mets to a 5-4 victory... **August 29**—Houston squares its WNBA championship series at a game apiece with an overtime win... **August 30**—The Houston Astros overcome



Griffey, who complained that the annual All-Star Game home run derby might ruin his stroke, eventually reconsidered his decision and went on to win the contest.

Ken Griffey Jr.

players, angered Malone by waving off one of his picks. Malone vowed not to make another All-Star appearance.

Otherwise, the game was boilerplate All-Star fare. No defense. Everyone trying to impress the world with some unprecedented move. The East opened an eight-point lead after one quarter, extended it by a basket over the next two quarters, and then ran away with the contest in the fourth quarter.

HOME RUN DERBY

Who was the best home run hitter of 1998? No, not **Mark McGwire** or **Sammy Sosa**. It was **Ken Griffey Jr.** Forget the regular season statistics. Griffey proved he was better at the All-Star home run hitting contest.

The Seattle Mariners' centerfielder clocked 19 home runs over three rounds to win the contest and return himself to the good graces of Colorado fans, who booed him at the start. Griffey had angered them by initially pulling out of the event, insisting that he was simply too drained to compete.

A talk with Hall of Famer **Frank Robinson** helped straighten him out. He led the competition after one round with eight home runs. He tied Cleveland's **Jim Thome** in the second round with another eight dingers and then bashed three more in the final round.

"I usually get booed on the road, but in this situation I really didn't like it," Griffey said. "But you know, they felt that they wanted me in the home run competition, so I did it."

McGwire cracked the longest shot of the evening, a 510-foot blast that thrilled the crowd. But he hit only four home runs, was eliminated after one round, and complained that the batting practice pitcher hadn't thrown the ball in a good spot. That caused one writer to quip that McGwire was so good that even batting practice pitchers were pitching him carefully.

Meanwhile, Sosa was injured and missed both the contest and the All-Star game. Colorado's **Vinny Castilla** and Baltimore's **Rafael Palmeiro** finished third and fourth.

NEW REGIME AT NEBRASKA

Nebraska's powerhouse football program experiences a major change about every ice age. So it was understandable that the debut of new coach **Frank Solich** was treated with special interest.

Solich, who replaced **Tom Osborne**, proved up to the formidable task of building on his mentor's remarkable record. In his first game, Solich watched his team clobber Louisiana Tech 56-27. It was for the most part a typical Nebraska performance. The Cornhuskers quickly established their supremacy on both the offensive and defensive lines and rolled to a big lead. They scored the first three touchdowns of the game, two on runs, and led 35-6 at the half.

About the only variation on the familiar Osborne theme was the difficulty Nebraska had in stopping the pass. Then again, with **Tim Rattay** and All-American **Troy Edwards**, Louisiana Tech featured one of the best quarterback-receiver tandems in recent college history.

The pair broke a slew of single-game NCAA records. Rattay completed 46-68 passes for 590 yards. Edwards caught 21 balls for 405 yards. Much to the consternation of Nebraska's usual sell-out crowd—their 43rd straight—they hit on two long passing plays in the third quarter to bring Louisiana Tech to within two touchdowns.

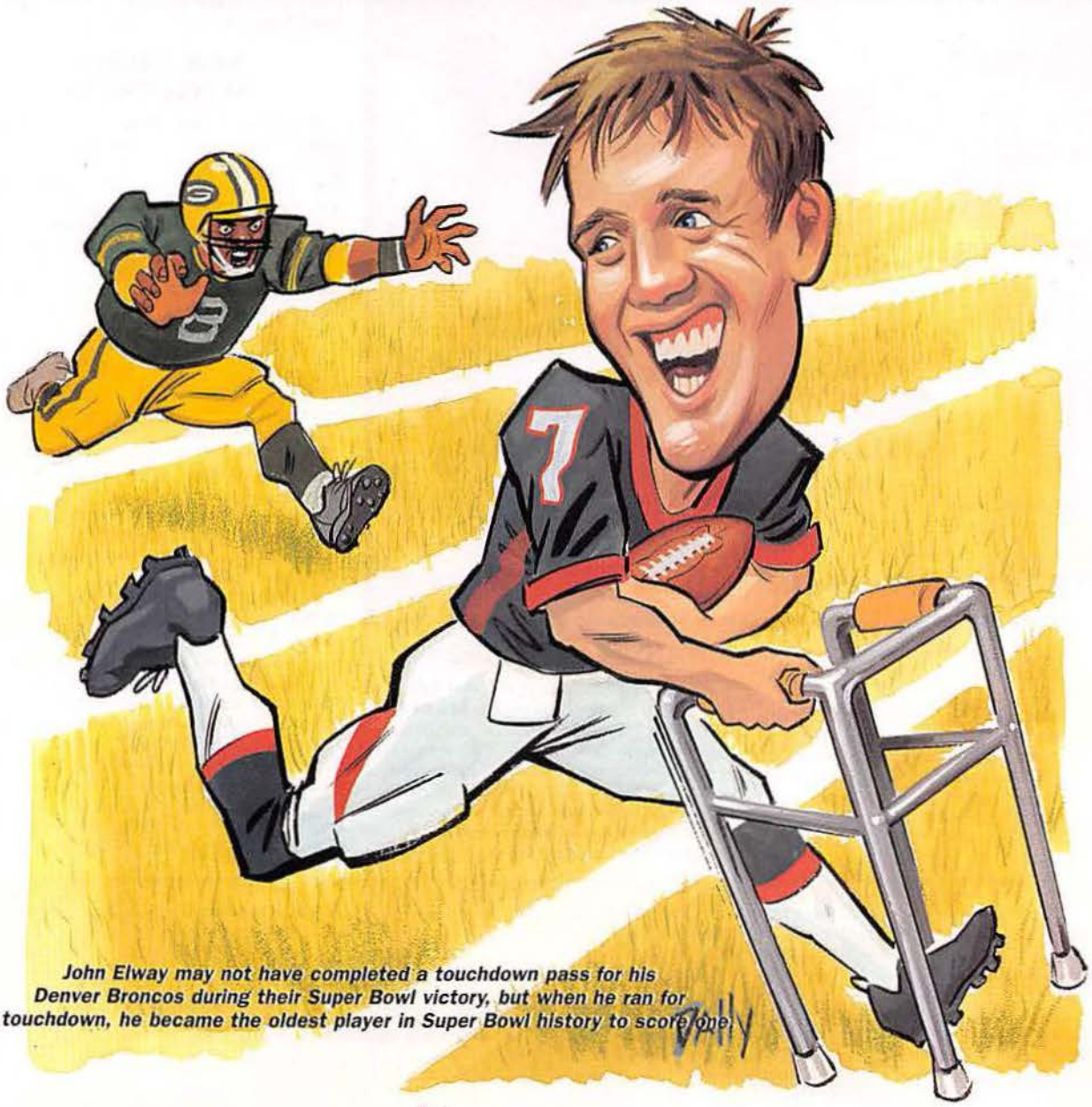
But Nebraska regained control of the game and iced the win with a couple of short scoring runs. A visibly relieved Solich was even moved to smile, something that Osborne rarely did on the sideline.

a deficit for the 40th time in the season and rout the Pittsburgh Pirates 11-4... **SEPT. 7**—Second-seeded **Lindsay Davenport** takes revenge for a Wimbledon loss to **Nathalie Tauziat** by beating the Frenchwoman 6-4, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open... **SEPT. 9**—The New York Yankees defeat the Boston Red Sox 7-5 to clinch their second American League East division title in three years... **SEPT. 19**—In Philadelphia's 4-3 victory over Montreal, **Curt Schilling** ups his league-leading strikeout total to 293... **SEPT. 22**—In their 4-1 win over Florida, the Atlanta Braves hit their 208th home run of the season to break a 32-year franchise record... **SEPT. 24**—Late season call-up **Shane Spencer** continues his hitting barrage (5 homers and 6 other hits in his last 17 at bats; 14 RBI; 8 homers in 57 at bats) in helping the Yankees notch their club record-breaking 111th win of the season... **SEPT. 26**—David Cone wins his 20th game of the season, setting a major league record for most years between 20-win seasons (10)... **SEPT. 27**—Toronto Blue Jays rookie **Roy Halliday** comes to within one out of a no-hitter in only his second major-league start, allowing only a 2-out homer in the ninth in a 2-1 victory over the Detroit Tigers...

PHOTO CREDITS: BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT (JORDAN AND MALONE); JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT (GRIFFEY)

THE NATIONAL SPORTS REVIEW

Numbers



John Elway may not have completed a touchdown pass for his Denver Broncos during their Super Bowl victory, but when he ran for a touchdown, he became the oldest player in Super Bowl history to score one.

In taking the inaugural Atlanta 500 Classic, **Kenny Brack** becomes the first Pep Boys Indy Racing League driver to win three straight races.

1998 marks the first time in major league baseball history that four players reached the 50-home run mark: **Mark McGwire** of St. Louis hit 70, **Sammy Sosa** of the Chicago Cubs hit 66, **Ken Griffey Jr.** of Seattle hit 56, and **Greg Vaughn** of San Diego hit 50. **Albert Belle** of the Chicago White Sox just missed—he had 49.

Steffi Graf, the oft-injured former No. 1 women's tennis player in the world, defeats **Jana Novotna** 6-4, 6-1 in the final of the Pilot Pen International in New Haven, Conn., for her first title in 15 months.

Toms River, N.J., defeats Kashima, Japan to become the first American team since 1993 to win the Little League World Series.

In game three of their championship series, the Chicago Bulls defeat the Utah Jazz 96-54, the largest margin of victory in NBA playoff history.

When the New York Yankees defeat the Seattle Mariners 11-6 on August 29, they clinch a playoff spot earlier than any team in major league history.

At age 35, **Michael Jordan** becomes the oldest player to win the NBA's MVP award; Jordan also joins Boston's **Bill Russell** as the only five-time winner.

At the Jamie Farr Kroger Classic, Korea's **Se Ri Pak** sets a one-round LPGA record by shooting 10-under par 61 in the second round; Pak ties the tour mark for a 72-hole tournament by finishing at 261—23 under par.

In his team's 14-0 rout of Chicago, **Mike Blowers** of Oakland becomes just the 218th major league player to hit for the cycle.

Mississippi defeats Kentucky 73-64, winning for the first time at Kentucky since 1927.

Eddie Cheever, who is best known for his Formula I career, wins his first Indianapolis 500.

"Jesse" James Leija decisions **Azumah Nelson** to win the International Boxing Association's lightweight title.

His team's 10-5 win over the Baltimore Orioles gives manager **Bobby Cox** his 1,000th victory as Braves' skipper and ups his overall record (he managed Toronto for four seasons) to 1,355-1,108.

England's **Chris Boardman** wins the Tour de France Prologue for the third time in five years.

In winning the pole position at CART's Medic Drug Grand Prix of Cleveland, **Jimmy Vassar** sets a one-lap speed record of 134.385.

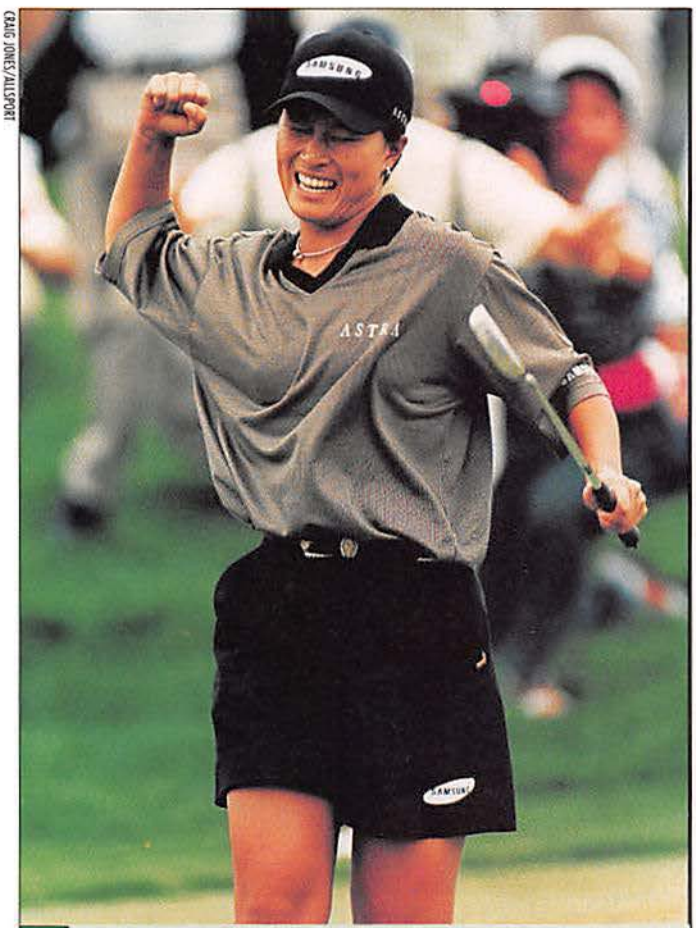
Jana Novotna defeats **Nathalie Tauziat** 6-4, 7-6 to win her first Wimbledon crown.

Marcelo Balboa, **Eric Wynalda** and **Tab Ramos** become the first American soccer players to participate in three World Cups.

The Houston Comets defeat the Washington Mystics 110-65, setting a WNBA scoring record.

Hard-working **Vijay Singh** takes the PGA Championship, his first major title.

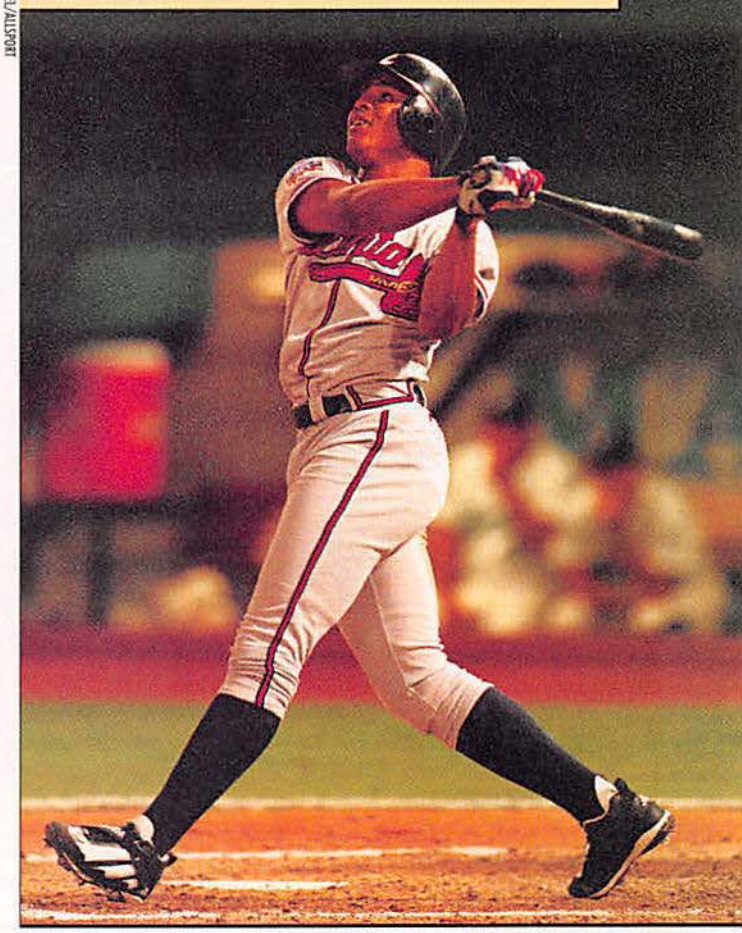
CRAIG JONES/ALLSPORT



Korea's **Se Ri Pak** outlasts amateur **Jenny Chuasiriporn** in a 20-hole playoff to become, at age 20, the youngest U.S. Open Women's champion in history.

JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

At age 21, the Atlanta Braves' **Andruw Jones** becomes the youngest player in major league history to hit 20 home runs and steal 20 bases in a season.



Backup quarterback **Jim Arellanes** throws three touchdown passes as the Duesseldorf Rhein Fire defeats the Frankfurt Galaxy 34-10 to win NFL Europe's World Bowl.

At a meet in Sindelfingen, Germany, the United States' **Stacy Dragila** and the Czech Republic's **Daniela Bartova** clear 14 feet, 8¼ inches in the pole vault to break the women's indoor record; meanwhile, Romania's **Gabriela Szabo** runs the women's 2,000-meter race in 5 minutes, 30.53 seconds to smash **Mary Slaney**'s 1985 record by almost four seconds.

Gary Player captures the Northville Long Island Classic and at age 63 becomes the second-oldest player to win a tournament in the history of the PGA Senior tour.

At Perth, Australia, **Kristy Kowal** finishes the 100-meter breaststroke in 1 minute, 8.42 seconds and becomes the first American woman to win the event at a swimming world championships.

Curt Schilling's strikeout of **Kevin Orie** in the second inning of the Phillies' 4-3 loss to Florida gave him 300 for the second consecutive season, making him the fifth pitcher in history to achieve the feat.

Atlanta sets a new NBA attendance record when 62,046 fans fill the Georgia Dome to watch the Hawks lose to the Bulls 89-74.

The San Antonio Spurs defeat the Denver Nuggets 96-82 to finish with a 56-26 record, a 36-game improvement over the previous season that is the best turn-around in NBA history.

With a grand slam in the Yankees' final game of the season against Tampa Bay, **Shane Spencer** sets a single-season rookie record with three.

Jeff Gordon takes the Pepsi 400 and becomes just the seventh driver in NASCAR history to win four consecutive races.

Hale Irwin shoots a final-round 70 and becomes the first player to win three consecutive PGA Seniors Championships.

At the World Cup, France:

- ➤ wins its first title;
- ➤ becomes the sixth home nation to win soccer's most prestigious trophy;
- ➤ allows just two goals in the tournament;
- ➤ wins all seven games.

Also: In its first World Cup appearance, Croatia defeats Germany 3-0 to reach the semifinals.

In winning the Hawaiian Open, **John Huston** breaks a 53-year-old record by finishing 28 under par.

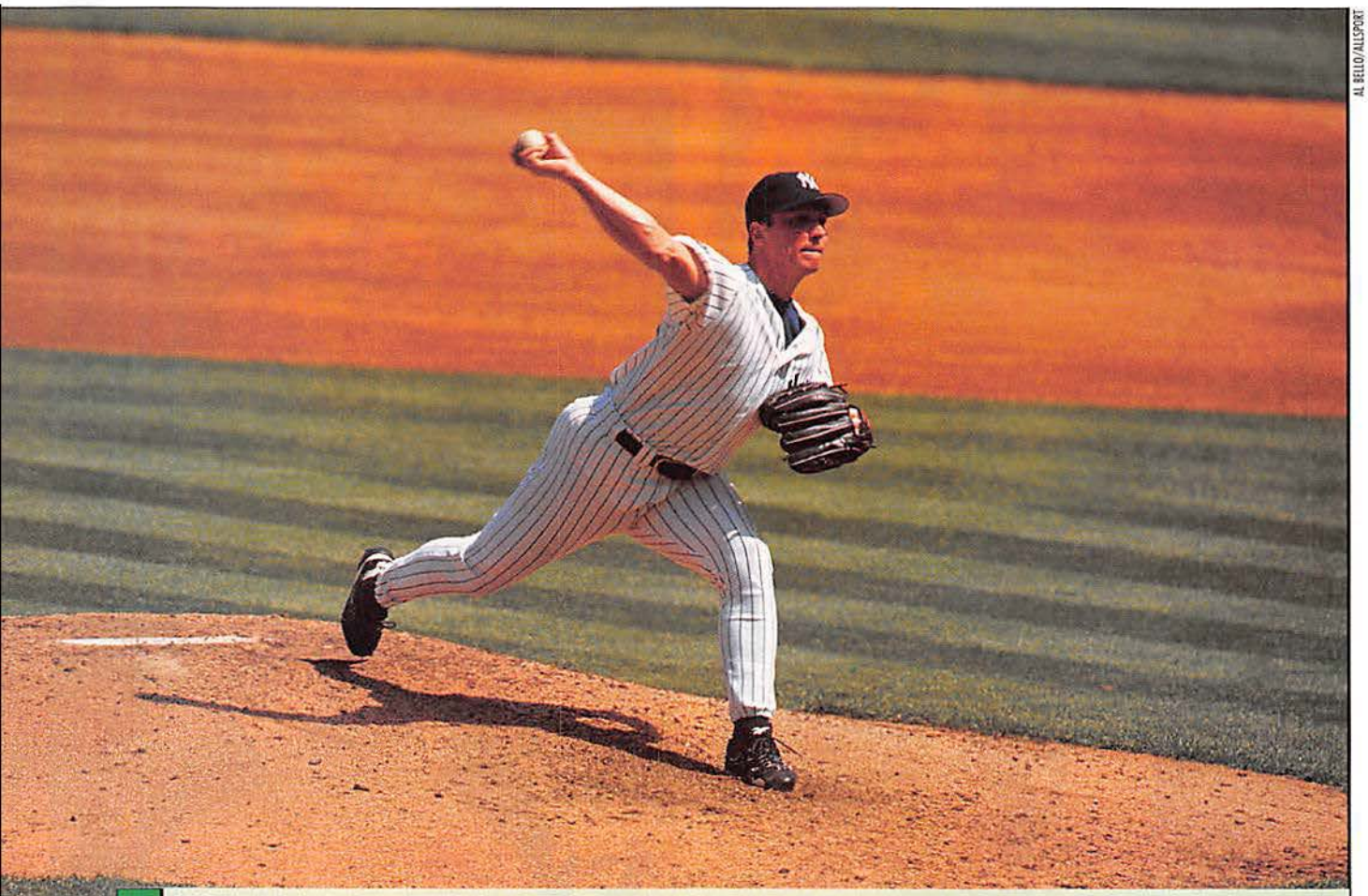
At the Goodwill Games, **Jeff Hartwig** breaks his own six-week-old American record by pole vaulting 19 feet, 8½ inches.

In a 92-77 win over the Los Angeles Sparks, New York's **Teresa Weatherspoon** records 13 assists to set a WNBA record.

Olympic hero **Hermann Maier** becomes the first Austrian since 1970 to win the World Cup skiing overall title.

In a 4-1 victory over Tampa Bay, Chicago's **Albert Belle** ties four other players for the major league record for July by hitting his 15th home run.

Italy's **Marco Pantini** becomes the first Italian in more than three decades to win the Tour de France; American **Bobby Julich** finishes third, becoming the first American since **Greg LeMond** in 1990 to stand on the final platform.



AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

With his 3-1 victory over Tampa Bay, **David Cone** of the Yankees wins 20 games for the first time since 1988, setting a mark for most seasons between 20-win campaigns.

Brandi Burton wins the du Maurier Classic, setting a record for a women's major by shooting an 18-under par 270.

In a 10-5 win over the A's, the Yankees' **Darryl Strawberry** ties a major league record by hitting his second pinch-hit grand slam of the season.

In his team's 8-0 win over Tampa Bay, Detroit's **Tony Clark** sets an American League record when, for the third time during the season, he hits home runs from both sides of the plate in a game.

In San Diego's 6-5 win over Houston, **Trevor Hoffman** ties **Rod Beck**'s major league record by converting his 41st straight save opportunity.

In Boston's 9-6 win over Baltimore, **Tom Gordon** breaks Hoffman's and Beck's aforementioned major league record by converting his 42nd straight save opportunity. His streak is currently at 43 and is still active.

In a 9-4 win over Detroit, the Boston Red Sox set an American League record with four home runs in one inning (**Mo Vaughn, Donnie Sadler, Darren Lewis** and **Nomar Garciaparra** all connect).

Women's professional basketball in this country has existed long enough now to post its first milestones. In the WNBA, the more highly publicized but not necessarily better of the two leagues that completed their second season, Houston's **Cynthia Cooper** became the first player to pass 1,000 career points. Cooper accomplished her feat in her league-leading team's 75-44 win over Sacramento.

In his team's 2-1 victory over the Devil Rays, Toronto's **Roger Clemens** becomes just the 11th player to notch 3,000 strikeouts.

The New York Yankees defeat the Baltimore Orioles 4-3 to become the first team in 86 years to win 60 of its first 80 games.

In Cork, Ireland, native heroine **Sonia O'Sullivan** runs the 2-mile race in 9 minutes, 19.56 seconds to break the 13-year world record by 9 seconds.

The Cincinnati Reds defeat the Florida Marlins 14-7, their ninth win without a loss against the defending World Series champs and the first time that they have swept a season series this century.

Dave Villwock steers Miss Budweiser to an easy victory on the Detroit River to become the sixth driver to win three consecutive Gold Cup unlimited hydroplane championships.

The **Mark McGwire** show rolls on: The Cardinals slugger blasts a home run against the New York Mets, reaching 400 career dingers faster than any player in major league history; McGwire needed just 4,726 at-bats to reach that number, breaking **Babe Ruth**'s mark of 4,854 at-bats to hit 400 home runs. Later in the season, McGwire breaks two other of Ruth's records. He reaches 40 home runs for a season in just 90 games, one game faster than Ruth's 1928 mark; and 50 home runs in a season for the third consecutive season (Ruth did it two straight years). He also becomes the second player in history to hit 50 homers for two teams (Oakland was his first team).

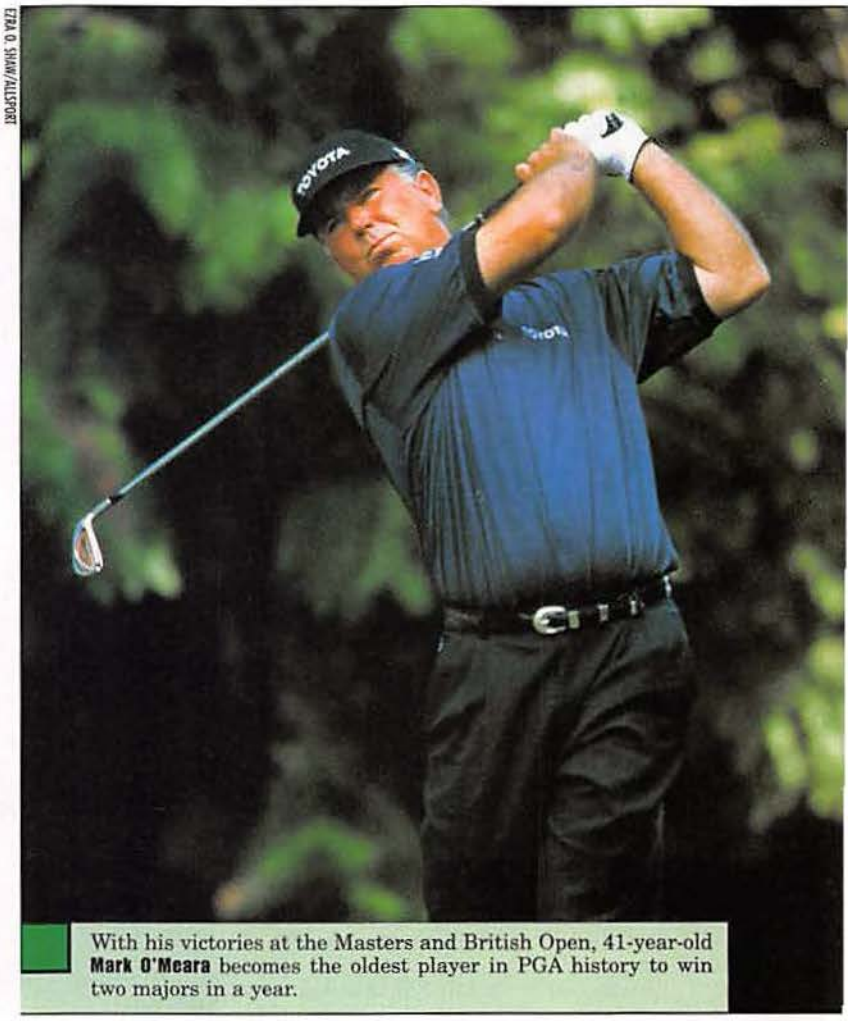
Tennessee's star forward **Chamique Holdsclaw** is named Women's College Athlete of the Year for the first time.

Six is the lucky number: The Chicago Bulls defeat the Utah Jazz 87-86 to take their sixth NBA championship in eight years as **Michael Jordan** wins his sixth playoffs MVP award.

GARY M. PRIOR/ALLSPORT

Pete Sampras defeats Croatia's **Goran Ivanisevic** 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to capture his fifth Wimbledon singles title, matching the record for the Open era of tennis; the triumph also gives him 11 Grand Slam titles, tying him with Bjorn Borg for the second most behind **Roy Emerson**.

EZRA O. SHAW/ALLSPORT



With his victories at the Masters and British Open, 41-year-old **Mark O'Meara** becomes the oldest player in PGA history to win two majors in a year.

Is there really so little interest in U.S. soccer? While 35,908 people watched the Mets and their new acquisition **Mike Piazza** at Shea Stadium, the New York MetroStars draw a crowd of 56,404—the fifth largest in Major League Soccer history—to watch their 4-2 win over the Miami Fusion at Giants Stadium.

Marcelo Rios becomes the first Chilean and the shortest player in the history of the men's computer rankings to become the top player in the world.

In a battle of World Cup rookies, Croatia trounces Jamaica 3-1.

With the victory of **Real Quiet**, **Bob Baffert** becomes just the fifth trainer in thoroughbred racing history to win the Kentucky Derby in consecutive years.

The crowd of 143,215 at Churchill Downs was the third largest in the race's history.

Playoff cupcakes no more, the Minnesota Timberwolves stun the Seattle SuperSonics 98-93 on the road to even their first round playoff series at one game apiece.

The Baltimore Orioles defeat the Oakland A's 8-2 as **Cal Ripken** extends his streak of consecutive games to 2,500.

At 5.28 goals per game, the 1997-98 season represents the lowest-scoring season in the NHL in 42 years. Only **Jaromir Jagr** of the Pittsburgh Penguins hits the 100 point mark.

In a 6-5 loss to Cleveland, **Ken Griffey Jr.** belts two home runs to become the second-youngest player in major league history to reach 300 home runs; Griffey was 28 years, 143 days old, while Hall-of-Famer Jimmie Foxx was 27 years, 328 days when he hit his 300th round-tripper.

In a 15-4 trouncing of Texas, **Ken Griffey Jr.** belts a sixth-inning homer to become the youngest player in major-league history to reach 350 home runs; Griffey was 28 years, 308 days old.

Yet more **Ken Griffey Jr.**—his accomplishments this season don't end there. He becomes the fourth-youngest to reach 1,000 RBI. His 56 homers and 20 steals make him the third player in history to achieve the 50 homer and 20 steal mark in a season. And with his solo home run in the fifth inning of Seattle's 7-6 victory over Oakland, he becomes the third player in history to drive in 140 runs in three consecutive seasons.

In the first round of the Masters, 66-year-old **Gay Brewer** becomes the oldest player in the history of the tournament to shoot par.

The University of San Francisco defeats Gonzaga 80-67 to snatch its first NCAA basketball bid in 16 years; and the first since it reinstated the sport in the mid-1980s after a three-season absence due to recruiting violations.

In the final of the Mid-Continent Conference tournament, Valparaiso defeats Youngstown State 67-48 to become just the eighth Division I school to capture four consecutive conference tournaments.

In Are, Sweden, America's **Kristina Koznick** captures the first World Cup slalom event of her career.

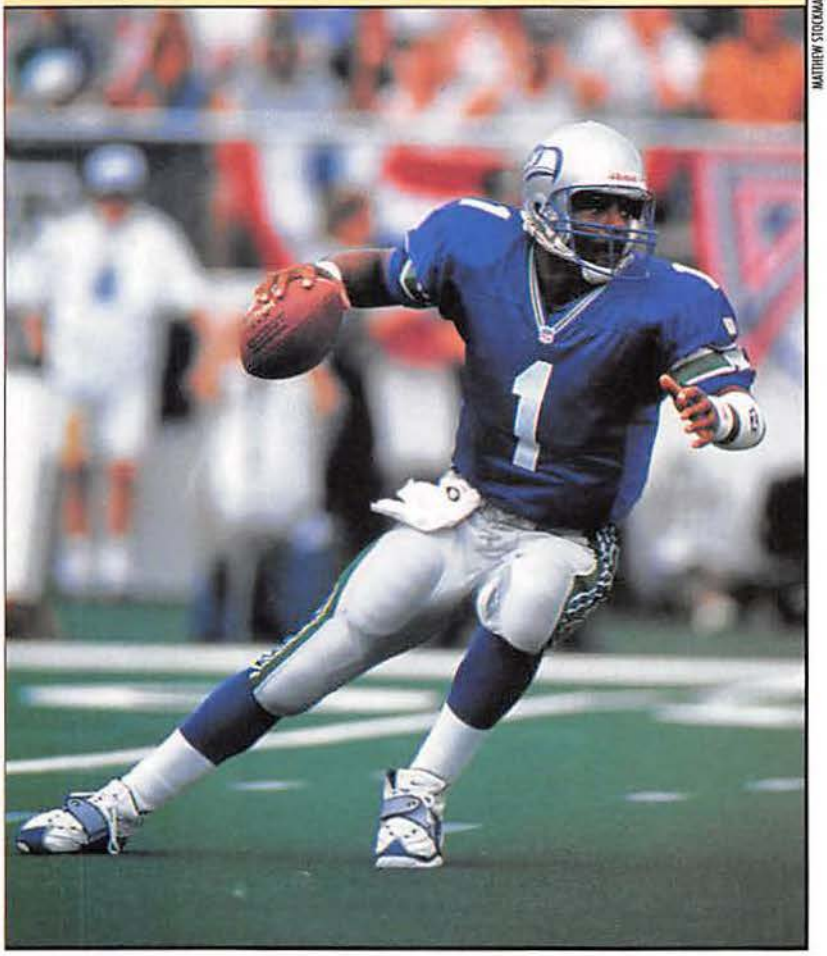
Penn State defeats a basketball team ranked in the top five for the first time in 50 years by upending Purdue 74-63.

At a meet in Auckland, New Zealand, Australia's **Emma George** becomes the first woman to clear 15 feet in the pole vault.

JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT

In Philadelphia, **Michelle Kwan** earns 15 perfect 6.0's, the most ever at a U.S. national figure skating championship.

■ Seattle's **Warren Moon**, at age 41 the oldest player in the Pro Bowl by four years, rallies the AFC to a 29-24 win over the NFC.



MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT

At the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan:

➤ The U.S. team captures the first Olympic women's hockey competition.

➤ America's **Picabo Street** wins the first super-giant slalom of her career.

➤ In the women's 15-kilometer cross-country ski event, Russia's **Olga Danilova** captures Nagano's first gold medal.

➤ Canada's **Ross Rebagliati** wins the Games' first gold medal in snowboarding.

➤ The U.S. wins the first gold medal in women's hockey.

➤ Norway's **Bjorn Daehlie** skis the third leg of his country's victorious 4x10 relay team to notch an Olympic record seventh career gold medal.

➤ Later in the week, Daehlie wins his eighth gold medal by capturing the 50-kilometer race.

➤ In his speedy new clapskates, Holland's **Gianni Romme** sets world speedskating records in the 5,000 and 10,000 meters of 6 minutes 22.20 seconds and 13:15.13 seconds, respectively.

➤ **Ilia Kulik** wins his first gold medal in men's figure skating and becomes the first person to complete a quadruple jump and eight triples in a competition. He also is the first skater to compete in a giraffe-spotted slicker.

➤ Japan's **Kazuyoshi Funaki** wins the 120-meter ski jump to give his country its first Olympic ski jump title.

➤ Canada wins the first men's and women's curling gold medals; his countryman **Hiroyasu Shimizu** takes the 500-meter speedskating event to give Japan its first gold medal in that discipline.

David Duval sets a three-round course record at the Tucson (Ariz.) National, shooting a 20-under par 196.

At a World Cup meet in Sydney, Australia, American **Michael Klim** wins the 100-meter butterfly in a short-course (25-meter pool) world record of 51.07 seconds.

Two days after tying the world indoor record of 6.41 seconds for 60 meters, **Maurice Green** runs 6.39 seconds to break the mark.

At 30 years old, the Yankees' **Brian Cashman** becomes the second-youngest general manager in major league history.

The Los Angeles Lakers become just the sixth team in NBA history to send four players to the All-Star Game.

With a victory over **Martina Hingis** in the U.S. Open finals, **Lindsay Davenport** earns her first Grand Slam title.

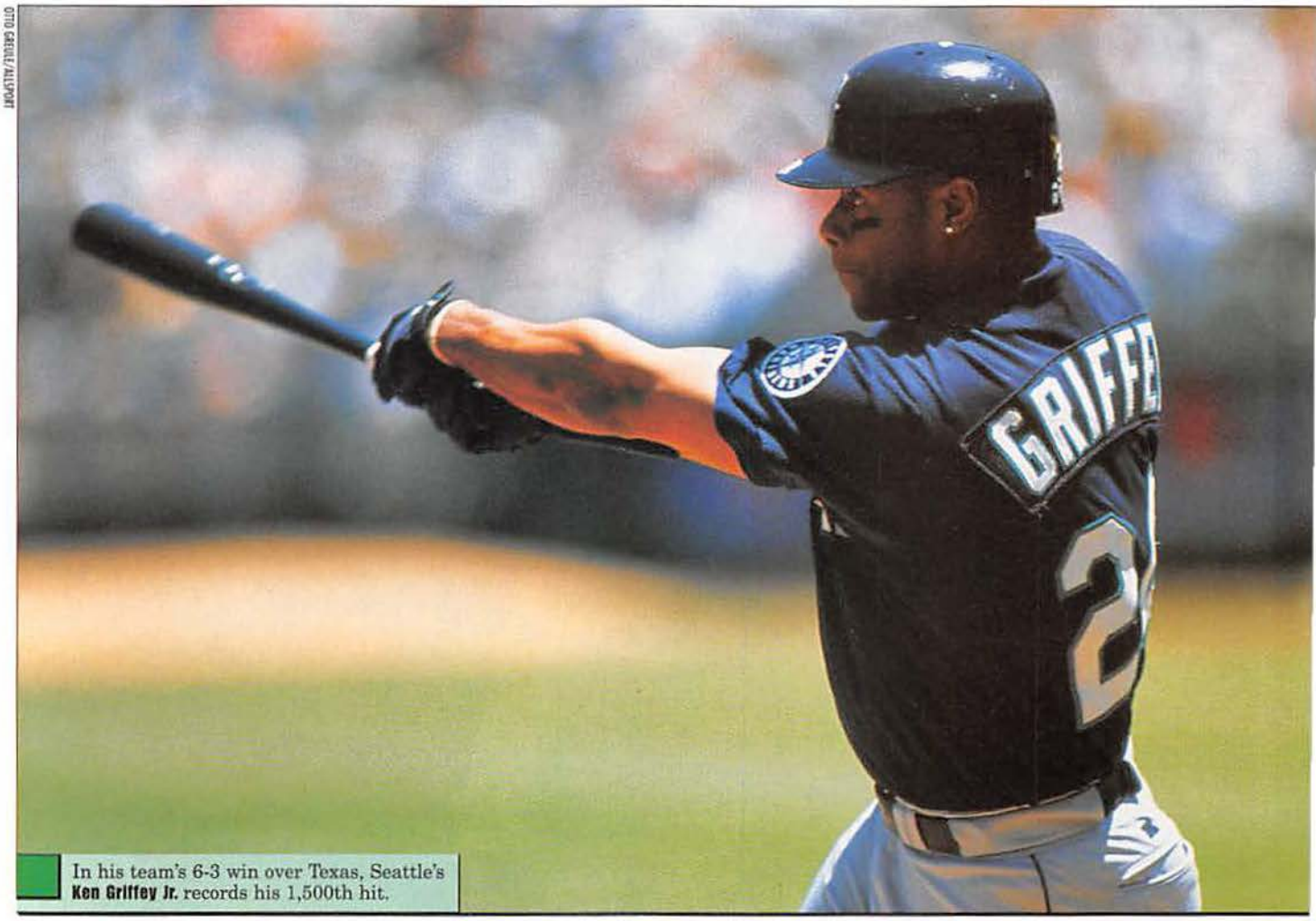
Lleyton Hewitt, a 16-year-old Australian ranked 550th in the world, defeats countryman **Jason Stoltenberg** 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 in the final of the Australian Men's Hardcourt Championships to become the lowest ranked player in 10 years to win an ATP tour event.

The Florida Panthers tie the Detroit Red Wings 1-1 as **Dino Ciccarelli** becomes just the ninth NHL player to score 600 goals.

In Stuttgart, Germany, Kenya's **Daniel Komen** sets the world indoor record for 3,000 meters by more than a second, running 7 minutes, 24.90 seconds.

Breaking records: In Karlsruhe, Germany, Ethiopia's running machine **Haile Gebrselassie** sets the world indoor record of 7 minutes, 26.14 seconds for the 3,000 meters; a week later in Hungary, Kenya's **Daniel Komen** smashes the mark by running 7:24.90.

In a 104-73 win over Monmouth (Ill.), Grinnell (Iowa) sets an NCAA record when 13 of its players hit 3-point shots.



OTTO GRUELE/ALLSPORT

In his team's 6-3 win over Texas, Seattle's **Ken Griffey Jr.** records his 1,500th hit.

Cindy Daws of the University of Notre Dame became just the second soccer player to be named the Women's College Athlete of the Year.

In the first NHL All-Star Game pitting North American All-Stars against the rest of the world, the North American All-Stars defeat the World All-Stars 8-7.

In a 115-88 win over the Golden State Warriors, Utah's **Karl Malone** scores 20 points and moves into sixth place on the NBA's all-time scoring list with 26,724 points.

At the Royal Caribbean Classic in Key Biscayne, Fla., **David Graham** defeats **Dave Stockton** in the longest playoff in the history of the PGA senior tour.

Los Angeles Lakers announcer **Chick Hearn** works his 3,000th consecutive game.

Centerfielder **Bernie Williams** asks the New York Yankees to pay him $9 million, the largest one-year contract request in arbitration in major league history.

Lance Armstrong wins the Sprint 56K in Austin, Tex., his first cycling victory since being diagnosed with testicular cancer 18 months earlier.

In Boston, Boston College defeats Michigan 3-2 to capture its ninth NCAA men's hockey tournament—three more than any other school.

At the French Open, **Carlos Moya**, **Alex Corretja** and **Felix Mantilla** win their quarterfinal matches to give Spain three semifinalists at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in tennis history (they are joined by France's **Cedric Pioline**).

At America's Red Clay championships in Coral Springs, Fla., **Xavier Malisse** of Belgium becomes the second player in ATP Tour history to reach the quarterfinals of just his second event.

In the CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal, the U.S. national soccer team defeats Brazil 1-0—the first time in 68 years that it has managed to do so.

Less than two months after finishing a disappointing second at the Olympics, **Michelle Kwan** wins her second World Figure Skating Championship in three years.

In Bormio, Italy, not far from her birthplace, **Deborah Compagnoni** wins her ninth consecutive World Cup giant slalom.

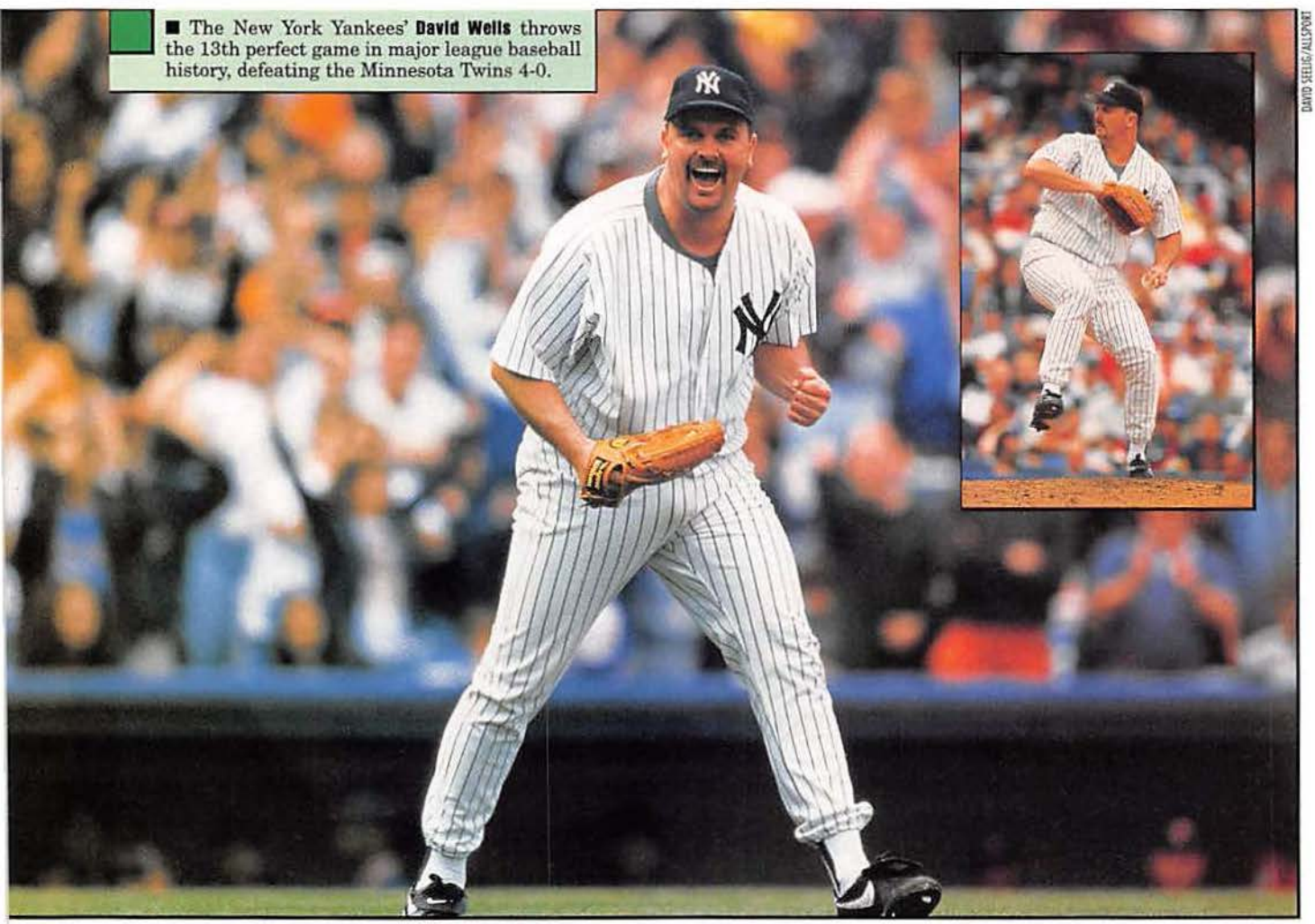
Martina Hingis, the 17-year-old Swiss prodigy, defeats **Conchita Martinez** 6-3, 6-3 in the Australian Open final to become the youngest player in tennis history to defend a Grand Slam title; meanwhile, **Petr Korda** wins his first Grand Slam title by routing **Marcelo Rios** in the men's final.

In his team's 7-2 win over Minnesota, the Texas Rangers' **Juan Gonzalez** drives in two runs to set a record with 35 RBIs in April.

Ethiopia's amazing **Haile Gebrselassie** obliterates the world record for 10,000 meters by finishing a race in Hengelo, Netherlands in 26 minutes, 22.7 seconds.

The expansion Tampa Bay Devil Rays delight their hometown fans by defeating the Detroit Tigers 11-8 and notching their first franchise victory. **Fred McGriff** knocks in four runs and Cuban defector **Rolando Arrojo** gets the win despite surrendering four runs in just six innings.

■ The New York Yankees' **David Wells** throws the 13th perfect game in major league baseball history, defeating the Minnesota Twins 4-0.



DAVID STEELE/ALLSPORT

The Buffalo Sabres' **Dominik Hasek** wins the NHL's MVP Award for the second year in a row, making him the first goalie to win the award twice; he also repeats his Vezina Trophy as the league's best goaltender (it is the fourth time he has won the award). His 13 shutouts are the most in the NHL in 28 years.

A pair of 59s: **Tiger Woods** couldn't do it. **Mark O'Meara** wasn't even close. But **Notah Begay III** and **Doug Dunakey** became just the third and fourth players to shoot 59s at PGA-sanctioned events. Both are regulars of the Nike Tour, a sort of Triple-A level for players looking to reach the PGA tour. Still, a 59 is a 59. Begay shot his 59 in Richmond, Va. Dunakey recorded his score at the Miami Valley Open in Sprinboro, Ohio, coming within a two-foot putt on the final hole of shooting the first 58 in PGA history.

The Houston Rockets defeat the San Antonio Spurs 112-87 to give coach **Rudy Tomjanovich** his 300th victory; Tomjanovich needs just 479 games to reach the mark, the ninth-fastest in NBA history.

In Reno, Nev., at the American Bowling Congress Masters, **Parker Bohn III** becomes just the 12th bowler in PBA history to roll a nationally-televised 300 game.

At the Quad City Classic in Coal Valley, Ill., **Casey Martin** earns $3,178, his first paycheck since winning a lawsuit to be allowed to ride a cart in a PGA-sanctioned event.

Two firsts on the same day in tennis: India's **Leandor Paes** captures his first title at the Miller Lite Hall of Fame Tennis Championships at Newport, R.I.; and Sweden's **Magnus Gustafsson** becomes the first player to win the Swedish Open four times.

Yugolslavia wins its record fourth World Championship in men's basketball.

The United States' under-20 national soccer team qualifies for the FIFA World Youth Championships, the junior equivalent of the World Cup, by crushing Trinidad and Tobago 6-1.

At the Caldwell Banker Burnet Classic in Coon Rapids, Minn., **Leonard Thompson** wins his first Senior PGA title.

The Arkansas men's track and field team wins its seventh consecutive NCAA title; meanwhile, the University of Texas ends LSU's 11-year streak of NCAA titles.

With **Real Quiet**'s wins in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, trainer **Bob Baffert** takes the first two legs of the Triple Crown for the second consecutive year. Real Quiet's loss by a nose in the Belmont Stakes is the closest of any of the 14 horses who have entered that race with a chance at the Triple Crown.

Texas Christian's 4x100-relay team of **Bryan Howard, Jamiene Holloway, Syan Williams** and **Percival Spencer** runs 38.03 seconds to break the nine-year-old NCAA record for the event.

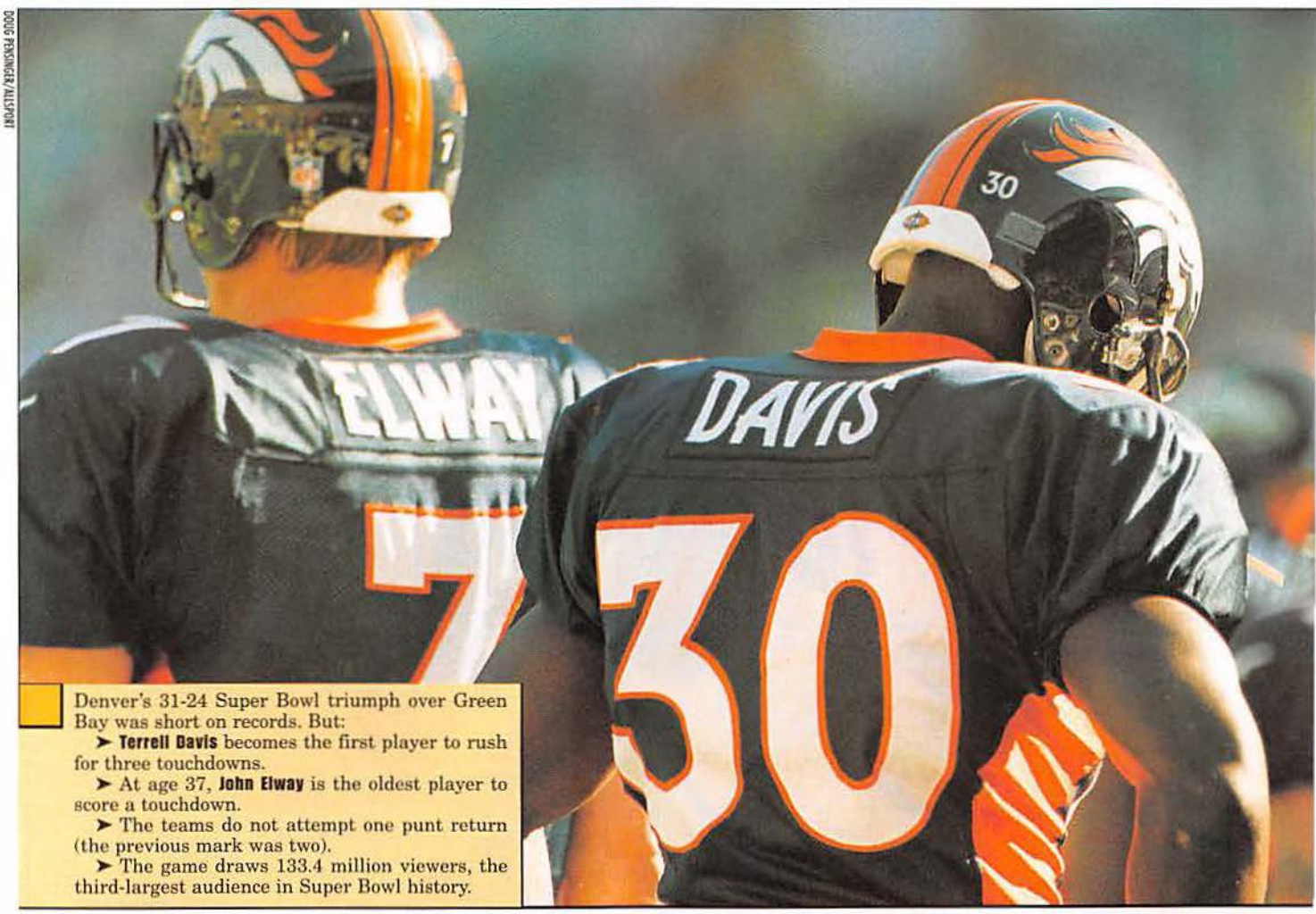
In Rome, **Hicham El Guerrouj** of Morocco runs 3 minutes, 26 seconds for 1,500 meters to clip more than a second off the world record.

Big day at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Ore.: the United States' **Maurice Greene** runs 9.79 in the 100-meter dash, the third-fastest time in history; **Marion Jones** leaps 23 feet, 11¼ inches in the long jump, the seventh-best all-time.

Dale Earnhardt ends a career of frustration by winning his first Daytona 500.

Seattle's **Alex Rodriguez** joins **Jose Canseco** and **Barry Bonds** as baseball's only 40-40 men (40 homers, 40 steals).

DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT



Denver's 31-24 Super Bowl triumph over Green Bay was short on records. But:

➤ **Terrell Davis** becomes the first player to rush for three touchdowns.

➤ At age 37, **John Elway** is the oldest player to score a touchdown.

➤ The teams do not attempt one punt return (the previous mark was two).

➤ The game draws 133.4 million viewers, the third-largest audience in Super Bowl history.

The Atlanta Braves become the first major league team in 66 years and the first National League team in 73 years whose pitching staff posted five 15-game winners. **Tom Glavine** won 20, **Greg Maddux** 18, **Kevin Millwood** and **John Smoltz** 17 and **Denny Neagle** 16. The Braves also become the first team since the 1979-80 Baltimore Orioles to post back-to-back 100-win seasons.

Trevor Hoffman of the San Diego Padres and **Rod Beck** of the Chicago Cubs joined fellow active pitchers **Dennis Eckersley** and **Randy Myers**, and single-season record-holder **Bobby Thigpen**, as the only pitchers to record 50 saves in a season.

Boston's **Dennis Eckersley** breaks **Hoyt Wilhelm**'s major league record for pitching appearances when he is called upon to pitch his 1,071st game, a 5-2 loss to Baltimore.

When **Stephen Larkin**, **Barry Larkin**, **Aaron Boone** and **Bret Boone** start for Cincinnati in the season finale, it marks the first time in history two sets of brothers played in the same game.

Sammy Sosa sets a major league record for home runs in a month with 20 in June.

More Sosa tidbits: **Sammy Sosa**'s major league leading 158 RBI are the most in a season since 1949, and the most in the National League since Hack Wilson set the single-season mark in 1930.

In his team's 7-1 win over St. Louis, Houston's **Craig Biggio** steals his 50th base of the season, making him the second player this century to notch 50 steals and 50 doubles in a season.

Cleveland's **Manny Ramirez** ties a major league record with home runs in four consecutive at bats. Three games later, he ties another record with eight home runs in five games.

With his 184 yards rushing in Detroit's 13-10 victory over the New York Jets, **Barry Sanders** accumulates the second-highest season rushing yards total in history at 2,053. He ends up 52 yards short of Eric Dickerson's single-season record.

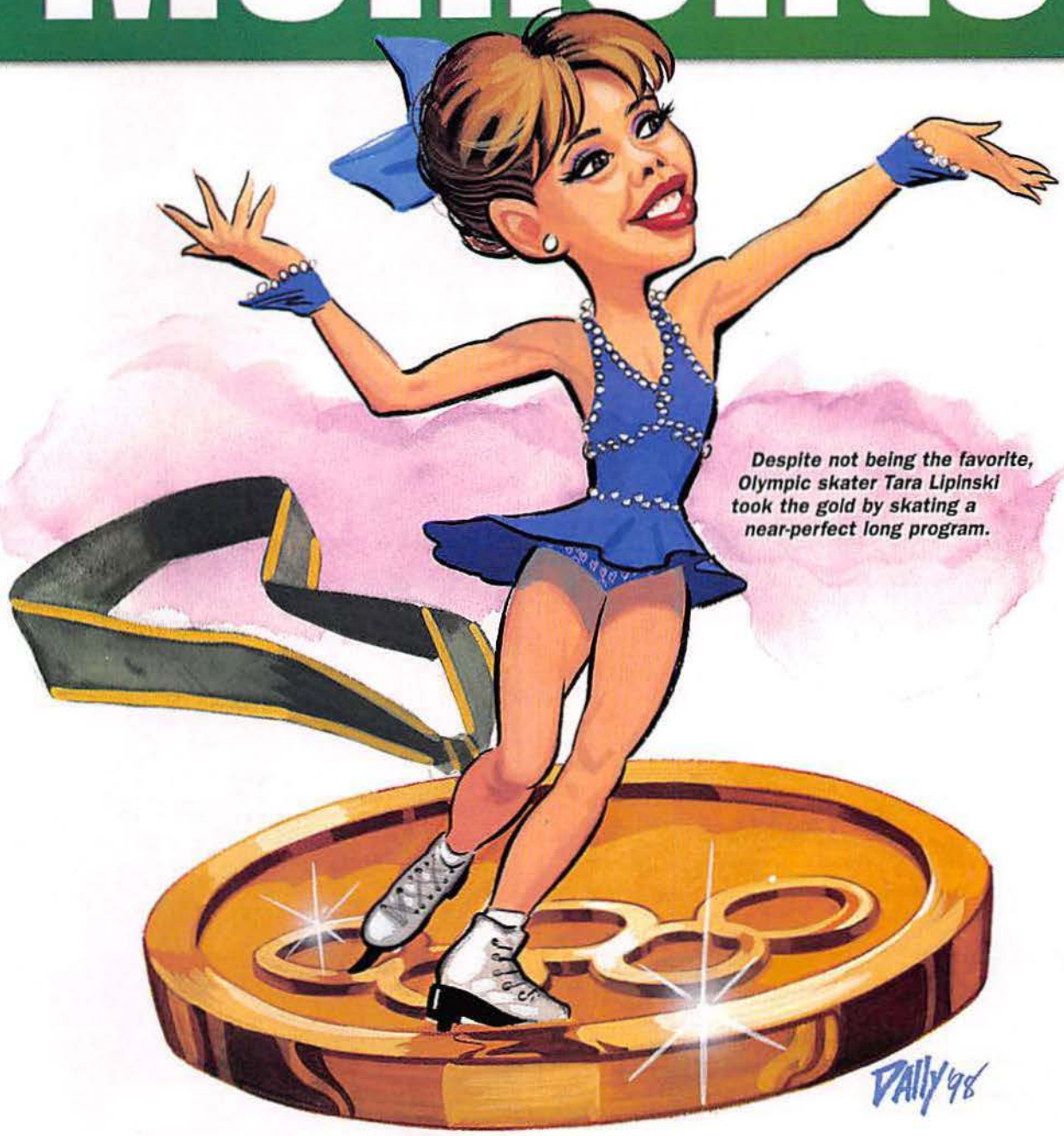
In a 2-0 victory over Houston, Chicago's **Kerry Wood** ties **Roger Clemens**' mark for strikeouts in a single game with 20. One start later, he fans 13 Arizona Diamondbacks in a 4-2 victory to set a new mark for strikeouts in consecutive starts.

■ At the All-Star Game, **Wayne Gretzky** records his 21st career All-Star point to break **Mario Lemieux**'s NHL record; meanwhile, **Teemu Selanne** becomes the first European to notch a hat trick at the game and the first from a losing team since 1986 to win the MVP award.

DAN TOMLINSON/ALLSPORT

THE NATIONAL SPORTS REVIEW

Moments



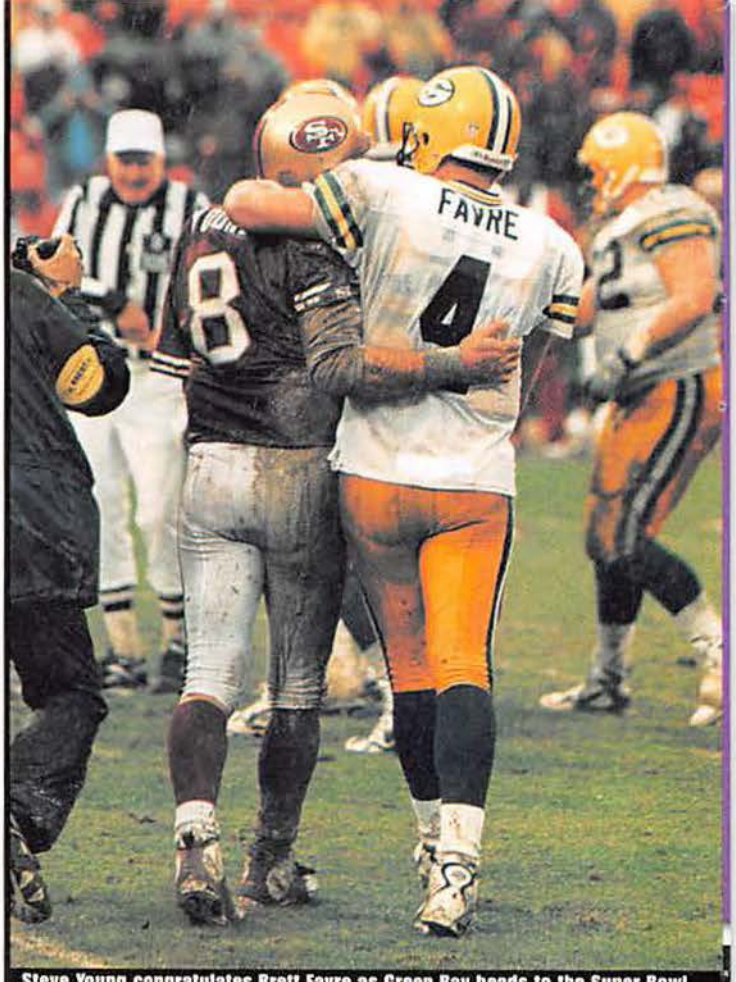
Despite not being the favorite, Olympic skater Tara Lipinski took the gold by skating a near-perfect long program.

JANUARY

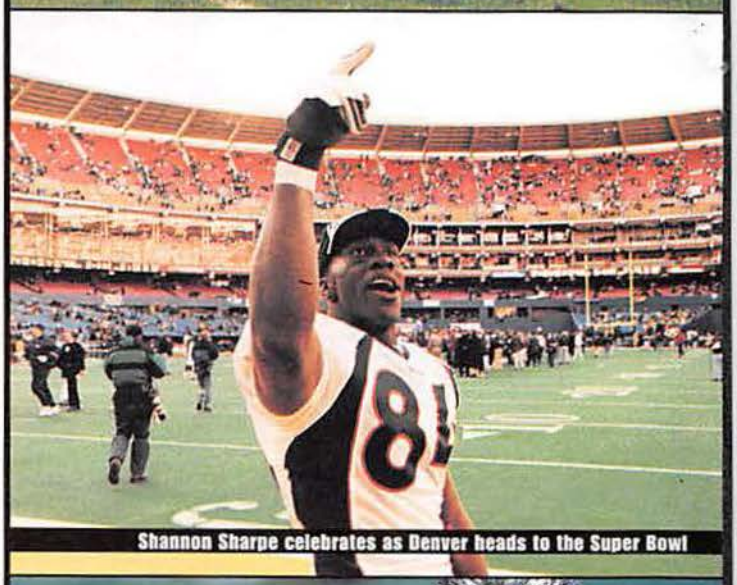
In the Rose Bowl, number-one ranked Michigan defeats Washington State 21-16 to finish undefeated and stake claim to the national championship.	1
By trouncing Tennessee at the Orange Bowl 42-17, Nebraska throws a curve at voters who must decide upon a national champion.	2
It's a split: Nebraska's convincing victory vaults the Cornhuskers past Michigan in the final coach's poll, but Michigan retains its top spot in the writer's final rankings.	3
Green Bay pushes back gritty Tampa Bay 21-7 and Denver upends Kansas City 14-10 to join San Francisco and Pittsburgh in the NFC and AFC championship games.	4
Alleged sore foot and all, **Michelle Kwan** buries the field at the U.S. national figure skating championships, earning 15 out of a possible 18 perfect scores for artistic presentation.	10
The Packers advance to their second straight Super Bowl with a convincing 23-10 win over the San Francisco 49ers; meanwhile, quarterback **John Elway** leads the Denver Broncos past the Pittsburgh Steelers 24-21 in the American Conference championship game.	11
Pro football returns to CBS: The network that lost the NFC to Fox snatches AFC games from NBC, paying the NFL $500 million—more than double what NBC was shelling out to televise games.	12
Football fans no longer have to worry about a good night's sleep on Monday nights, as the NFL changes the starting time for Monday Night Football from 9 to 8 p.m.	13
In the NHL All-Star game, the North American All-Stars defeat the European All Stars 8-7.	18
At the Australian Open, in their first meeting as pros, **Venus Williams** beats younger sister **Serena** 7-6, 6-1.	20
He's back, right? In his first major tournament, following a dismal 1997, **Andre Agassi** upsets 16th-seeded Alberto Costa in four sets to advance to the third round of the Australian Open.	22
Martina Hingis clobbers **Conchita Martinez** 6-3, 6-3 to defend her Australian Open title.	31

FEBRUARY

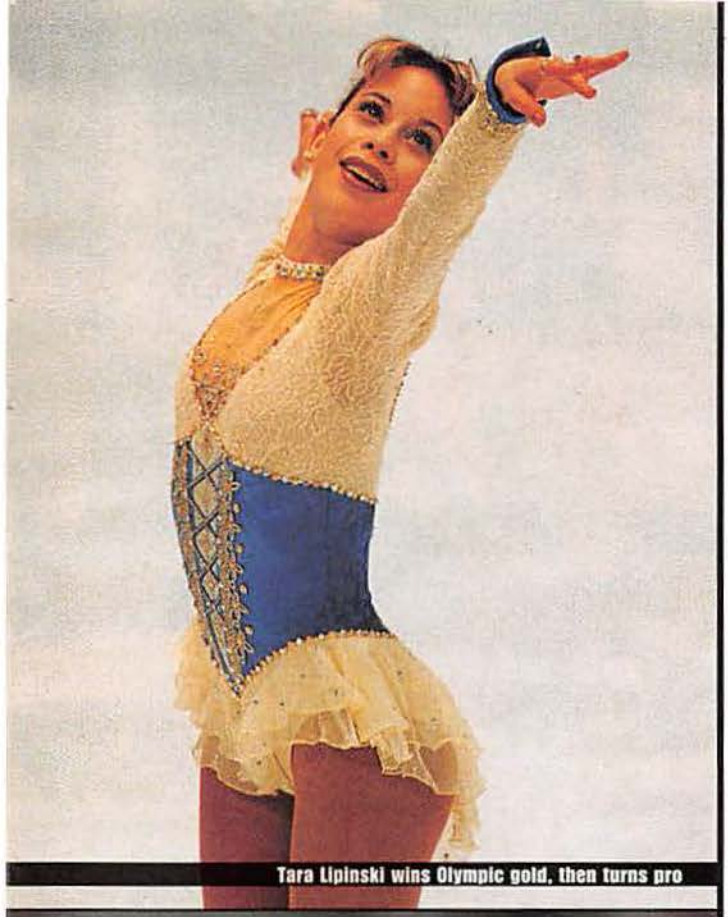
At the Pro Bowl, **Warren Moon**, the oldest player in the game, sneaks over from the 1-yard line with less than two minutes remaining to give the AFC a 29-24 victory over the NFC.	1
The Bulls get swept? Yes, Utah overcomes a second-quarter, 24-point deficit to sweep the teams' regular-season series.	4
At the Winter Olympics, **Jean-Luc Cretier** is the surprise winner of the men's downhill, Alpine skiing's signature event, as favorite **Hermann Maier** flames out in one of the sport's most spectacular crashes ever.	12
The U.S. hockey team continues its disappointing Olympics, losing to arch-rival Canada 4-1.	15
U.S. speedskater **Christine Witty** wins her second Olympic medal, a silver in her specialty, the 1,000 meter race.	19
Tara Lipinski executes a nearly flawless long program to overtake teammate **Michelle Kwan** and win the gold medal in women's figure skating at the Winter Olympics.	20
The Czech Republic shocks Russia to win the gold medal in Olympic hockey and then joins the parade of nations for the close of the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano, Japan.	21
With a ceremony filled with color but subdued in tone, Nagano, Japan bids farewell to the Winter Olympics.	22



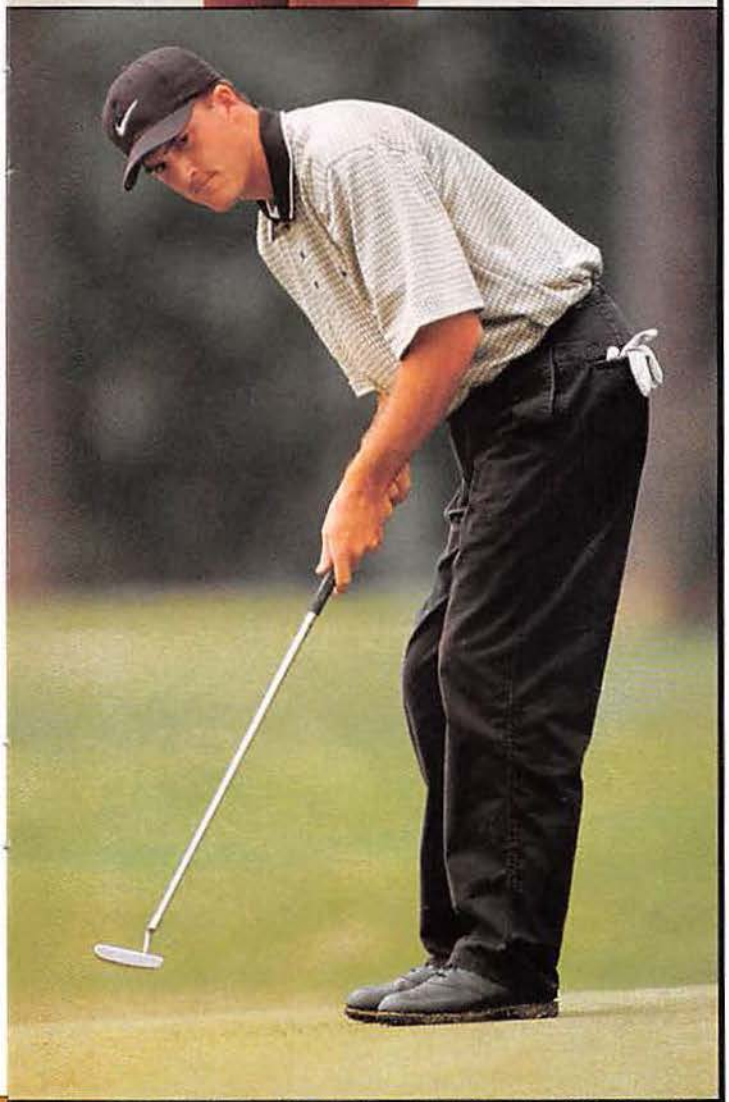
Steve Young congratulates Brett Favre as Green Bay heads to the Super Bowl


Shannon Sharpe celebrates as Denver heads to the Super Bowl

Marcelo Rios defeats Pete Sampras to become world #1



Tara Lipinski wins Olympic gold, then turns pro



Casey Martin plays his first tournament since winning his lawsuit

FEBRUARY

28 Top-ranked Duke gets revenge for an earlier thrashing by coming back from a 17-point, second-half deficit to defeat North Carolina 77-75.

MARCH

1 Mark down **Venus Williams'** first tournament victory as a pro: She defeats **Joannette Kruger** 6-3, 6-2 to capture the IGA Tennis Classic at Oklahoma City.

5 In his first official round on the Nike tour since winning the right to ride a cart in a nasty lawsuit, **Casey Martin** shoots a solid 69 at the Nike Greater Austin (Texas) Open.

7 The University of Connecticut defeats Syracuse 69-64 to win its third Big East championship.

8 Duke, North Carolina, Kansas and Arizona become the top-four seeds in the NCAA men's basketball tournament; meanwhile, Tennessee, Stanford, Old Dominion and Texas Tech enjoy the same status in the women's tournament.

17 **Jeff King** wins his third Iditarod sled-dog race, finishing the 1,100-mile route from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska in 9 days, 5 hours and 52 minutes.

19 Major league owners approve the sale of the Los Angeles Dodgers to **Rupert Murdoch**'s Fox Group.

21 In the West Regional of the NCAA men's basketball tournament, Utah shocks top-ranked Arizona 76-51.

22 Surprising Stanford and gutsy Kentucky join Utah and North Carolina in the Final Four.

23 Just two years after losing the Browns, Cleveland has a pro football team to call its own as the NFL awards the football-crazy town the league's 31st franchise.

25 Although the majority of teams vote in its favor, a proposal to reinstitute instant replay in NFL games falls two votes short of passage.

27 An NBA record crowd of 62,046 fill the Georgia Dome to watch perhaps the last appearance of **Michael Jordan** in Atlanta, but the hometown Hawks fall 89-74 to the Bulls.

28 Kentucky nips Stanford in overtime 86-85 and Utah shocks top-ranked North Carolina 65-59 to advance to the final of the men's NCAA basketball tournament.

29 The University of Tennessee women's basketball team earns consideration as the greatest in college history by beating Louisiana Tech 93-75 to win the NCAA championship and complete a 39-0 season. Meanwhile, in tennis, Chile's **Marcelo Rios** defeats **Andre Agassi** in the final of the Lipton Championships 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 to take over the number-one ranking in men's tennis.

30 The comeback specialists of the NCAA men's basketball tournament do it again: Kentucky brushes away a 10-point, halftime deficit and defeats Utah 78-69.

31 **Mark McGwire** christens the opening day of the baseball season with a grand slam home run as St. Louis routs Los Angeles 6-0.

APRIL

3 North Carolina's **Antawn Jamison** wins the John Wooden Award as the men's college basketball player of the year.

6 **Jim Courier** drops the first eight games to unknown Russian **Marat Safin**, but comes back to capture the fifth and deciding match in a first-round Davis Cup tie.

7 Although just 15, Olympic gold medalist **Tara Lipinski** forgoes the possibility of defending her title by turning pro.

9 The **Tiger Woods** reunion bash, otherwise known as the Masters, starts with wind and high scores. (By the way,

PHOTO CREDITS: JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT (FAIRES); ANDY CROWE/ALLSPORT (CHARTE); AL BELLO/ALLSPORT (CROSS); CLIVE BRUNSKILL/ALLSPORT (LIPINSKI); CRAIG JONES/ALLSPORT (MARTIN)

APRIL

Woods can do no better than one under par 71.)

10 The score was more apt for an NFL game than a Yankee Stadium opener, but the atmosphere was pure baseball: Silver-haired, resplendent **Joe DiMaggio** throws out the first ball and New York outslugs Oakland 17-13.

13 **Mark O'Meara** sinks a birdie putt on the 18th hole to win the Masters and upstage **Jack Nicklaus**, who at 58 years old shoots a final round 68 to finish just four strokes behind the leader. Four days before the 75th anniversary celebration game at Yankee Stadium, a support beam comes crashing down into the seats hours before a Yankees-Angels matchup, forcing the postponement of two games, and the relocation of four others to alternate sites, including crosstown Shea Stadium.

15 **David Wells** leads the Yankees to victory over the Anaheim Angels in Shea Stadium, after the team is relocated there while Yankee Stadium is inspected.

18 The Indianapolis Colts make **Peyton Manning** the number one pick in the NFL draft.

19 **Hale Irwin** shoots a final-round 70 and becomes the first player to win three consecutive PGA Seniors Championships.

27 North Carolina's **Antawn Jamison**, the College Player of the Year, announces that he will forego his senior year and head for the NBA.

MAY

1 The NBA suspends Miami's **Alonzo Mourning** and New York's **Larry Johnson** for two games after the bitter rivals try to duke it out in game four of the teams' first-round playoff series; the pair are fined $20,000 and $10,000 respectively, while the Knicks' **Chris Mills** is suspended for one game and fined $2,500 for leaving the bench.

2 **Real Quiet** bides his time quietly along the rail before taking the lead near the mile mark and winning 124th running of the Kentucky Derby.

3 Top-seeded Utah beats Houston and New York overwhelms brawling-buddy Miami in the fifth and deciding game of their respective NBA first-round playoff series.

5 Playing in what is likely his last German Open, semi-retired, home-country hero **Boris Becker** loses his first-round match.

6 **Kerry Wood** pitches one of the most dominating games in baseball history, tying **Roger Clemens'** record of 20 strikeouts in a game and shutting down the Houston Astros, 2-0, on only one hit.

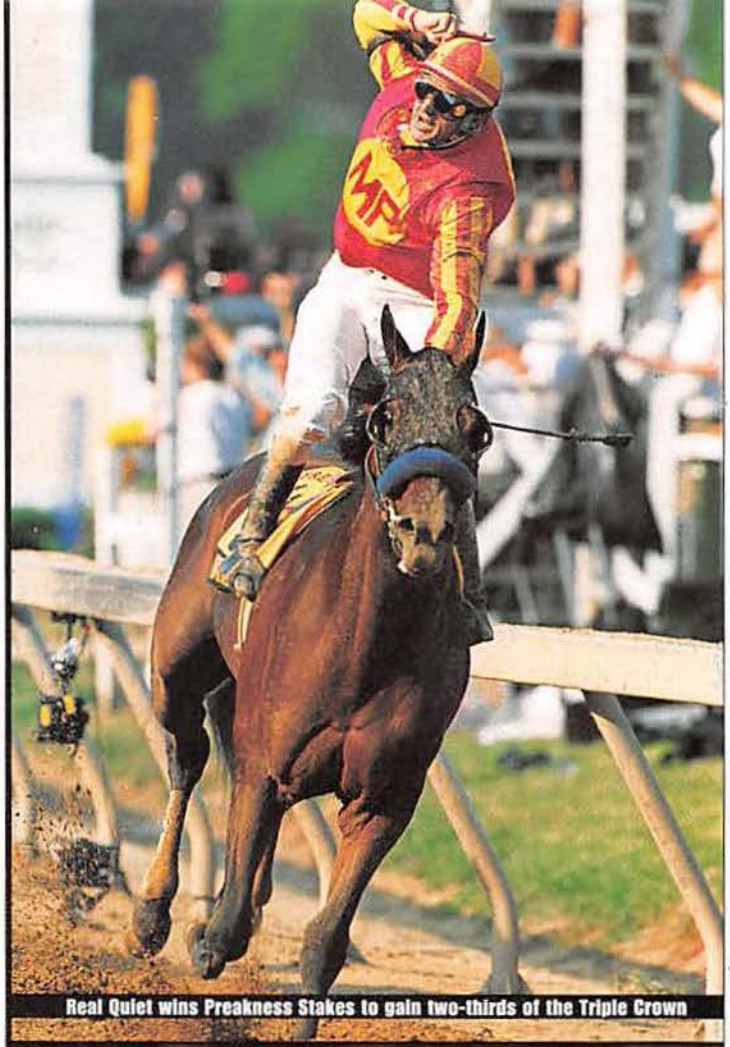
10 **Tiger Woods** captures the BellSouth Classic to take the $324,000 first-prize money and snap a 10-month winless streak.

12 The Los Angeles Lakers and Utah Jazz complete 4-1 series wins over the Seattle SuperSonics and San Antonio Spurs to advance to the NBA Western Conference final.

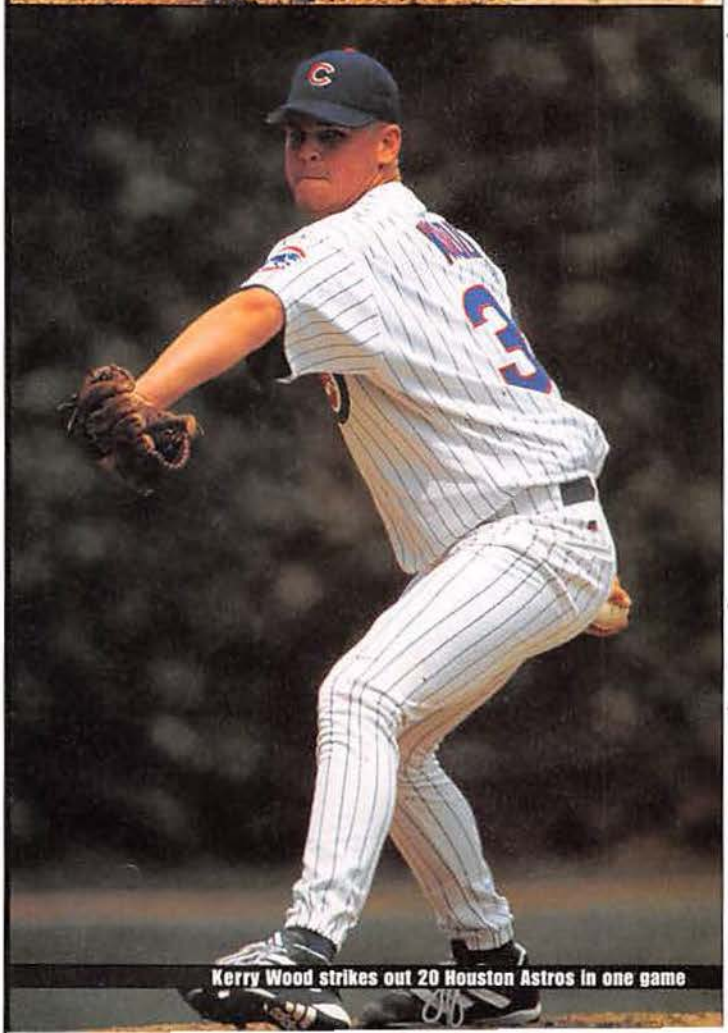
16 Kentucky Derby winner **Real Quiet** adds the second leg of the Triple Crown to his résumé, winning the Preakness by 2¼ lengths over Victory Gallop.

19 Baltimore reliever **Armando Benitez** touches off one of the nastiest brawls in recent baseball memory by intentionally hitting the New York Yankees' **Tino Martinez** with a pitch during a tense New York win at Yankee Stadium. Benitez, who had surrendered a home run on the previous pitch, receives an eight-game suspension, while a teammate and three New York players were also suspended.

22 Anyone looking for an All-Star catcher? In the space of a week, **Mike Piazza** is traded from the Dodgers to the Marlins, and finally to the Mets.

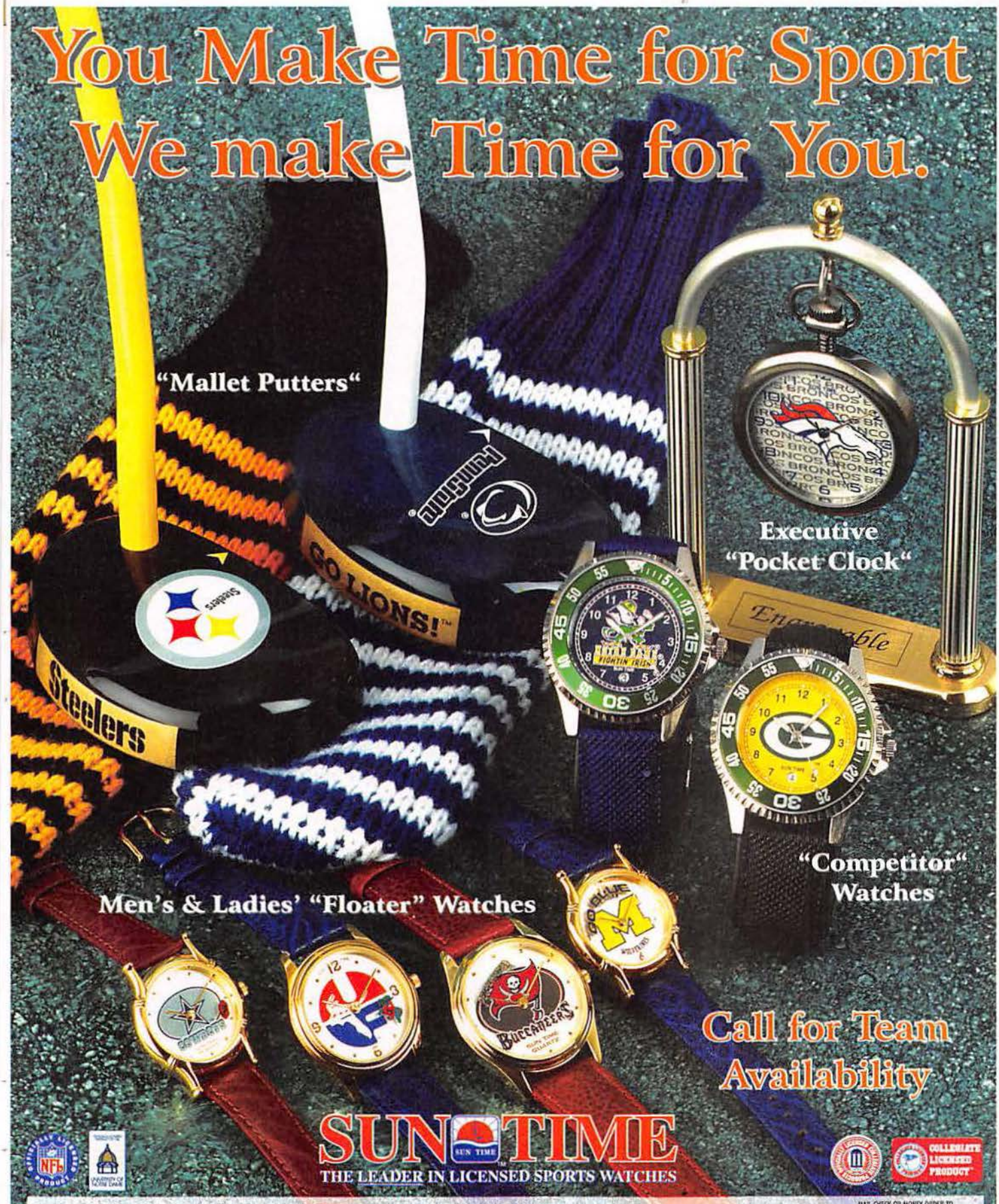


Real Quiet wins Preakness Stakes to gain two-thirds of the Triple Crown



Kerry Wood strikes out 20 Houston Astros in one game

PHOTO CREDITS: JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT (REAL QUIET); MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT (WOOD)



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33780 - 0615
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MAY

24 The Utah Jazz complete a surprising sweep of the Los Angeles Lakers to advance to its second straight NBA championship series.

26 Frustrated by their inability to win an NBA championship, the Seattle SuperSonics fire **George Karl**.

JUNE

6 **Victory Gallop** edges **Real Quiet** on a head bob to end the latest quest for the Triple Crown. Meanwhile, **Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario** stops sentimental favorite **Monica Seles** 7-6, 0-6, 6-2 in the women's final of the French Open.

7 **Carlos Moya** completes Spain's domination of the European claycourt season by defeating countryman **Alex Corretja** 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 to capture the French Open.

10 Brazil opens its defense of the World Cup by edging Scotland 2-1.

13 **Oscar De La Hoya** bolsters his credentials as the best pound-for-pound boxer going, stopping top-ranked challenger **Patrick Charpentier** in three rounds to defend his World Boxing Council welterweight crown.

14 Michael again: The Chicago Bulls defeat the Utah Jazz 87-86 to win their sixth NBA championship in eight years.

15 The U.S. national soccer team suffers a bad case of nerves in falling to European champion Germany 2-0 in the opening round of the World Cup.

16 The Detroit Red Wings again: Detroit pounds Washington 4-1 to sweep their series and win a second consecutive Stanley Cup.

21 At San Francisco's Olympic Club, **Lee Janzen** keeps his cool, waits for **Payne Stewart** to make a few mistakes and wins his second U.S. Open. Meanwhile, the U.S. national soccer team loses any chance of advancing to the second round of the World Cup by losing to Iran 2-1.

23 Needing a victory to advance, Norway shocks group leader and defending World Cup champion Brazil 2-1.

24 Pacific center **Michael Olowokandi** becomes the first pick in the NBA draft.

27 In the second game of the second regular-season subway series since baseball introduced interleague play, the Yankees defeat the Mets 7-2 before a crowd of 53,587 at Shea Stadium.

29 After guiding the U.S. to a disastrous 0-3 World Cup record, embattled coach **Steve Sampson** resigns.

30 In one of the most dramatic matchups of the World Cup, and perhaps the tournament's best-played game, Argentina defeats England in a penalty shootout.

JULY

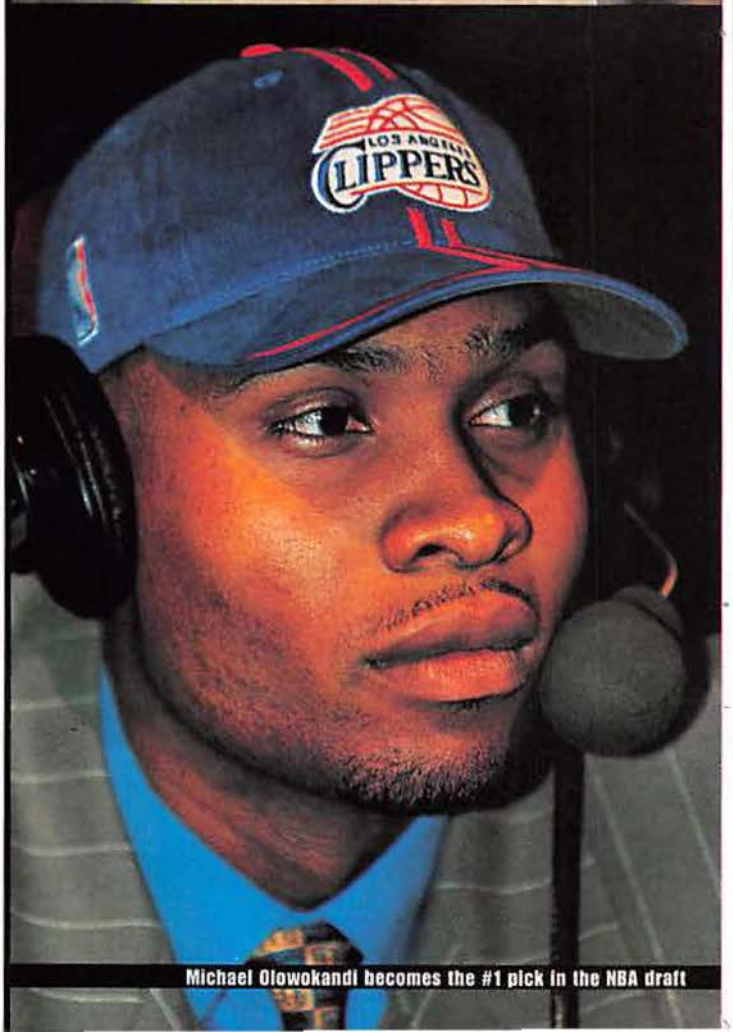
2 Down by three runs with two out and nobody on base in the ninth, the Yankees rally behind Tino Martinez's 3-run homer and Ricky Ledee's 11th-inning RBI single to beat the Philadelphia Phillies 8-7.

3 In the quarterfinals of the World Cup, Brazil defeats Denmark 3-2 and France outnerves Italy in penalty kicks.

4 The third time in a Wimbledon singles final is lucky for **Jana Novotna** as she defeats France's **Natalie Tauziat** 6-4, 7-6 to win tennis' most prestigious title.

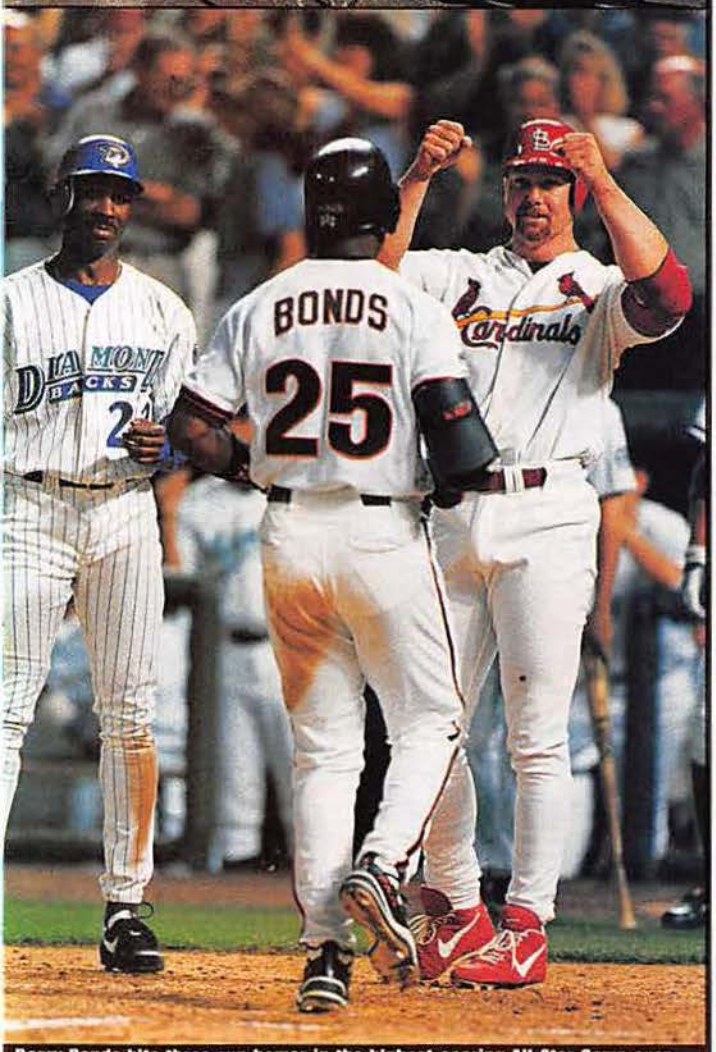
5 Three powerhouses continue their dominant ways: **Pete Sampras** defeats **Goran Ivanisevic** 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to win his fifth Wimbledon title; the New York Yankees defeat the Baltimore Orioles 1-0 to up their record to 61-20 and tie the 1902 Pittsburgh Pirates and 1907 Chicago Cubs for the best 81-game mark in major league history; and **Roger Clemens** records his 3,000th career strikeout in

Vijay Singh wins the PGA Championship for his first major title

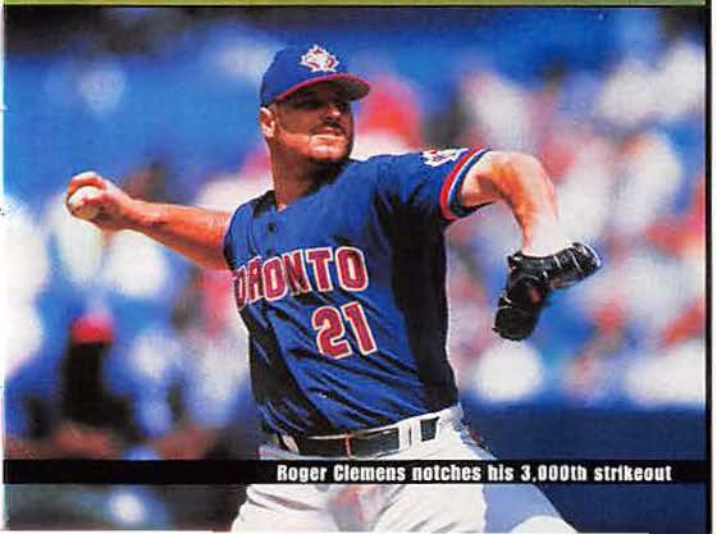


Michael Olowokandi becomes the #1 pick in the NBA draft

Italy's Marco Pantani wins the Tour de France



Barry Bonds hits three-run homer in the highest-scoring All-Star Game ever



Roger Clemens notches his 3,000th strikeout

JULY

Toronto's 2-1 victory over Tampa Bay at SkyDome.

6 Korea's **Se Ri Pak** and U.S. amateur **Jenny Chuasiriporn** duel over an 18-hole playoff and two sudden death holes before Pak strokes a birdie to win the U.S. Women's Open.

7 Run-crazy Coors Field does not disappoint: The American League outslugs the National 13-8 as the teams set a record for runs in the All-Star Game.

12 With nearly 80,000 delirious Frenchmen looking on, and a captive nation hanging on every play, France slices up Brazil 3-0 to win its first World Cup.

13 In the biggest celebration since Germany surrendered to end the European part of World War II, 600,000 people line the Champs d'Elysees to cheer their World Cup champion soccer team.

14 The Pittsburgh Steelers sign **Bill Cowher** to a three-year extension worth $2 million per year.

17 Race officials at the Tour de France disqualify the powerhouse Festina team after Festina's director admits that his riders had received performance-enhancing drugs.

19 **Mark O'Meara** again? The balding, paunchy O'Meara becomes the most unlikely player in golf history to win two major titles in one year by adding the British Open to his earlier Masters title.

21 At the Goodwill Games in Uniondale, N.Y., **Michael Johnson** runs 43.76 to win the 400-meter race in his fastest time since the 1996 Olympics.

25 Although **Joe DiMaggio** and **Phil Rizzuto** are in town for Old Timer's Day, and **Jim Bouton** makes his first appearance at the event since the publication of his book *Ball Four*, the Yankees lose 6-2 to the Chicago White Sox.

26 Three spectators are killed during the U.S. 500 when a tire and other debris carom into the stands after a crash on the 175th lap of the 250-lap race.

27 **Rod Laver**, the last male tennis player to win a Grand Slam and arguably the greatest player in history, suffers a stroke while doing an interview for ESPN.

29 Tyson loses control: Appearing before the New Jersey Athletic Control Board, which will decide whether he should receive a boxing license, **Mike Tyson** loses his patience with the line of questioning and launches into a profanity-laced monologue.

31 The Houston Astros are the surprise winners of the **Randy Johnson** sweepstakes, acquiring the former Cy Young Award winner for two minor league players and a player to be named later.

AUGUST

2 In a Tour de France marred by allegations of rampant use of performance-enhancing drugs, **Marco Pantani** becomes the first Italian in more than three decades to win cycling's most prestigious event; meanwhile, in the U.S., **Randy Johnson** strikes out 12 Pirates to win his debut for the Houston Astros.

10 In his team's 8-5 victory over San Francisco, Chicago's **Sammy Sosa** ties **Mark McGwire** in the **Roger Maris** home run derby by smacking his 45th and 46th home runs of the season.

13 With a big Yankee Stadium crowd at playoff pitch, **Orlando Hernandez** and **Mariano Rivera** team up for a 2-0 shutout of the Texas Rangers.

16 A bittersweet day in sports: **Jim Murray**, the brilliant and beloved columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, dies. Fiji's hard-working **Vijay Singh** shoots a splendid 9-under-par 271 to capture the PGA Championship—his first major title—by two strokes over American **Steve Stricker**.

PHOTO CREDITS: HARRY HOW/ALLSPORT (LYNCH); JEFF GROSS/ALLSPORT (LOZONO/KAMIENIECKI, BONDS); GRAHAM CHADWICK/ALLSPORT (PANTANI); RICK STEWART/ALLSPORT (CLEMENS)

AUGUST

20 The St. Louis Cardinals' **Mark McGwire** hits his 50th and 51st home runs to become the first player in major league history to reach 50 home runs in three consecutive seasons.

24 Although his team loses 13-3 to the Houston Astros, Chicago's **Sammy Sosa** shows that he is not out of the **Roger Maris** chase as he blasts his 50th and 51st home runs; meanwhile, **Mark McGwire** hits his 53rd home run in a 4-3 loss to Pittsburgh.

25 Toronto's **Roger Clemens** strikes out 18 Kansas City Royals on his way to a 3-hit shutout victory.

26 Their teams lose, but who cares except the teams themselves: **Mark McGwire** hits his 54th home run, while **Sammy Sosa** clocks No. 52.

27 The New York Yankees defeat the gritty Anaheim Angels 6-5 in 11 innings, but Anaheim edges New York six games to five in the season series.

SEPTEMBER

1 **Mark McGwire** hits home runs 56 and 57 to break Hack Wilson's single-season National League record.

7 In his team's 3-2 win over **Sammy Sosa** and the Chicago Cubs, **Mark McGwire** ties **Roger Maris'** major league record of 61 home runs in a season.

8 62, 62, 62! **Mark McGwire** breaks the hallowed season mark for home runs in the Cardinals' 6-3 victory over the Cubs.

9 Spain's **Carlos Moya** wins in straight sets and becomes the first Spaniard in more than two decades to reach the semifinals of the U.S. Open.

12 **Lindsay Davenport** doesn't quite earn the world's top ranking, but she settles for a U.S. Open championship, defeating **Martina Hingis** in straight sets.

13 **Sammy Sosa** ties **Mark McGwire** for the home run lead, blasting his 61st and 62nd home runs in an 11-10 victory over Milwaukee.

17 The Texas Rangers defeat the Anaheim Angels 7-6 to complete a three-game sweep and take a one game lead in the American League Western Division race.

20 **Cal Ripken** does not play in his team's last home game and ends his consecutive games streak at 2,632.

21 **Florence Griffith Joyner**, the 1988 Olympic champion in the 100- and 200-meter dash and world-record holder in each event, dies in her sleep of a heart seizure; she was 38.

23 **Sammy Sosa** hits two home runs to tie **Mark McGwire** in the home run race at 65, but the feat is overshadowed by an excruciating 8-7 loss to the Milwaukee Brewers. With a seven run lead in the seventh, the Cubs allow eight unanswered runs, including three runs that score when outfielder **Brant Brown** drops a routine fly ball.

24 Late-season call-up **Shane Spencer** continues his hitting rampage by blasting a grand slam home run en route to powering the Yankees over the Devil Rays 5-2, posting their club record-setting 111th victory of the season.

27 **Mark McGwire** blasts two more homers in the final game of the year, bringing his record-smashing, single-season home run total to 70. In the other baseball race, the National League wild card, the Mets drop an embarassing 7-2 game to **Greg Maddux** and the Braves, only to sit and watch the Cubs and Giants blow leads and lose their games. The two losses force the Cubs and Giants to have a one-game playoff to determine the wild card team.

28 The Chicago Cubs win their wild card playoff matchup 5-3 over the San Francisco Giants despite **Sammy Sosa** going homerless. The victory gives the Cubs their first postseason appearance in nine years.

Mark McGwire breaks Roger Maris' single-season home run record

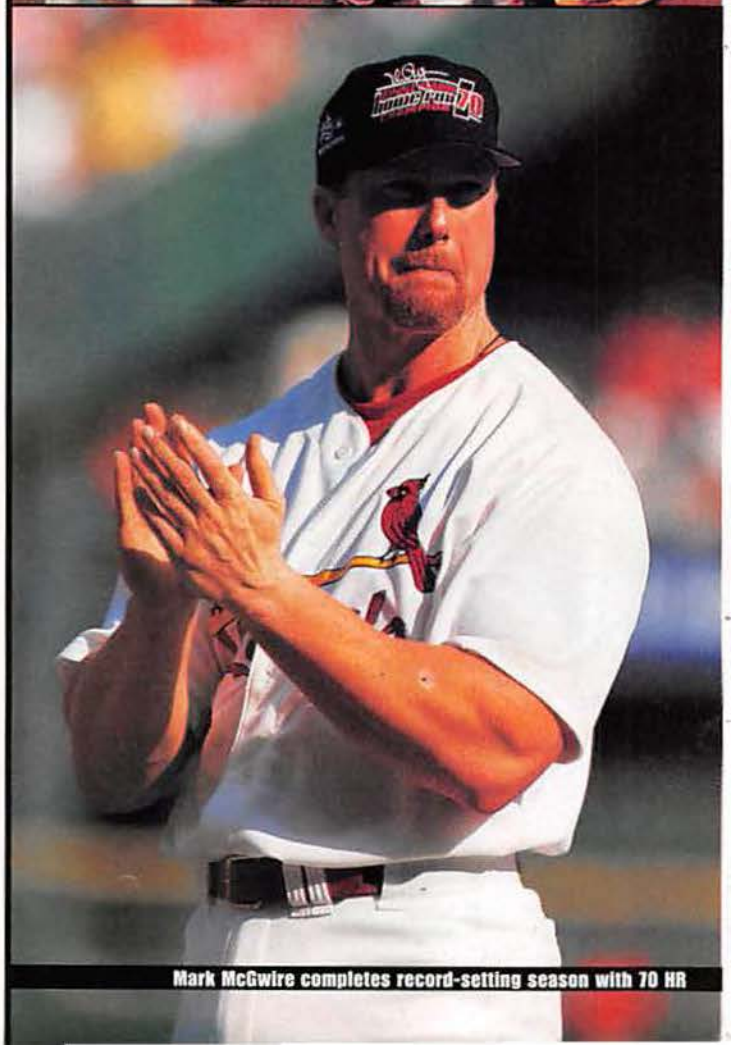

Mark McGwire completes record-setting season with 70 HR

PHOTO CREDITS: ELSA HASCH/ALLSPORT (#62), BRIAN SPURLOCK (#70)

Perspectives

Shortly after signing a six-year, $38-million contract, Detroit Red Wing Sergei Federov treated his team to a whopping $11,000 dinner.

MOST EXPENSIVE WEEKLY GAMES

$9.2 billion, Monday Night Football

In 1962, televising NFL games cost CBS a little more than $2 million a year, not enough to land a decent quarterback. Sports grew. So did the business of football and the television contracts it awarded. Two years ago, Fox snatched NFC games from CBS for an astounding $1.1 billion over three years ($395 million per season). CBS topped that this year for the rights to AFC games. The network that once gave us Pat Summerall and John Madden signed an eight-year contract worth $4 billion.

Not to be outdone, Fox re-secured the NFC, paying $4.4 billion, a 40% increase over its previous payment. Then ABC weighed in. Anxious to retain its prime-time hegemony on Monday nights, the network agreed to pay $9.2 billion over the next eight years to continue televising Monday Night Football. That's better than $1.1 billion per year to broadcast two games a week and three Super Bowls (ABC's sister network ESPN took over regular-season Sunday night games as part of the package).

With its contract in hand, and looking to generate more revenue, ABC pushed forward its starting time to 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. That meant that California football fans in a time zone three hours behind the east would have to rush home to catch any part of the first half. Meanwhile, player salary caps rose to $10 million per team with ticket prices soon to follow.

MOST KNEE SURGERIES IN A CAREER

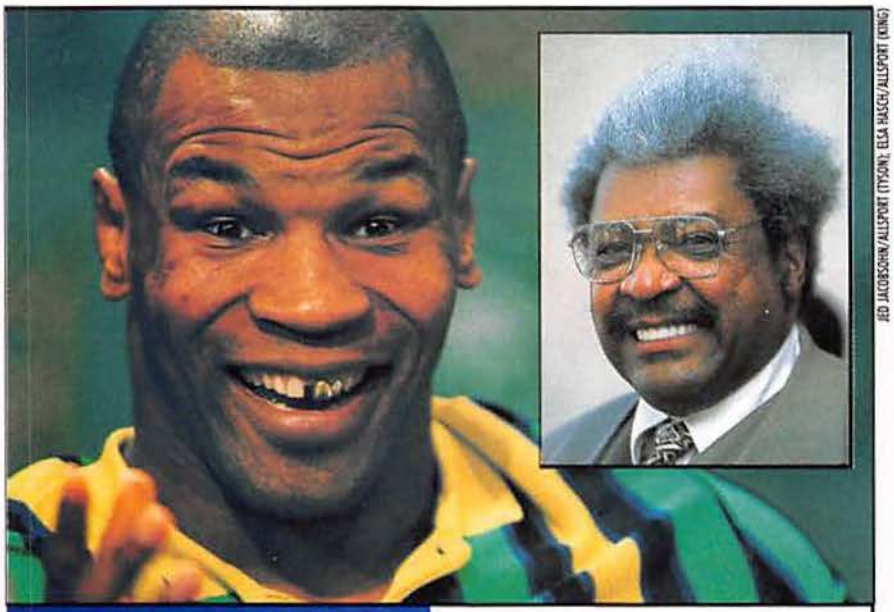
20, Ongoing, Mark Schlereth

In NSR's continued attempt to keep you posted on the sad, the unusual, the ridiculous and the bizarre, we return to lineman Mark Schlereth. Him of the knees of glass and brain of mush. By the end of 1997 Schlereth was hovering around the 20 mark in knee surgeries, but continued playing for the Denver Broncos. Of the latter, he sparkled in the Broncos' upset victory in the Super Bowl. Yet the surgeries were sure to continue, as Schlereth did not appear ready to relinquish his football career.

MOST DISAPPOINTING RATINGS

16.2, CBS

What with the first dream team hockey tournament, a U.S. gold medal threat named Picabo, and a possible (pre-Bobek meltdown) sweep in the Winter Olympics glamour event of women's figure skating, CBS should have slam-dunked a ratings win. Instead it practically guaranteed itself a business disaster by saturating its coverage with commercials and figure skating, and taping events it could have shown live. Its choice of reporters also left something to be desired. What was the hip but reporting-challenged MTV video jockey Kennedy doing anywhere near the Games when she clearly had little interest in preparing for her assignments? Ah well, CBS had to sell to the Generation X crowd. In any event, CBS received its comeuppance with the lowest ratings since the Grenoble, France Games of 1968, and advertising giveaways to companies who'd been guaranteed higher ratings.



JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT (TYSON); ELSA HASCH/ALLSPORT (KING)

BIGGEST LAWSUIT

$100 million, Mike Tyson

In the had-to-happen-eventually category, we bring you Mike Tyson and his promoter Don King. King has long established his credentials as one of sports' most unsavory characters. Tyson is paranoid. How it took so long for them to have a falling out is difficult to understand. But fall out they did this year. Tyson sued King for $100 million, saying that King had taken advantage of a "vulnerable, unsophisticated boxer" and cheated him out of tens of millions of dollars. He said that King would not provide Tyson's accountant with his client's records. What Tyson's records were doing in King's possession is undoubtedly another question that is difficult for rational people to answer.

MOST UNDERPAID PITCHER

Randy Johnson, $6.325 million

You do the math and figure out if Randy Johnson deserved more money than Seattle was willing to pay him at the start of the season. Pedro Martinez set the salary pace for major league pitchers this season at $12.1 million. Martinez won 10 fewer games over the past five seasons, surrendered a third of a run and almost half a hit more per nine innings, and struck out two batters per game fewer than Johnson. Over the same period, Roger Clemens, who ranked third at $8.2 million for 1998, won 14 fewer games and allowed almost a half-run more per game, while lagging well behind Johnson in hits and strikeouts per nine innings. Johnson, baseball's most imposing pitcher and pitching-starved Seattle's most important player, received $6.325 million. Not a bad sum. But the Mariners, a one-time World Series candidate, would have done well to offer him more. Johnson pitched erratically over the first half of the season before Seattle shipped him to Houston for a fraction of his worth.

BIGGEST NBA LOSS

65 points, Portland

Coming off a big win at Chicago, the Portland Trail Blazers were understandably confident entering the following game against Indiana. But early on it was apparent that a different Portland team had shown up at Market Square Arena. Portland trailed early and watched helplessly as Indiana widened the gap. The final 124-59 score represented the first time in NBA history that one team had more than doubled the other's points. Portland just missed setting two other records for margin of defeat and fewest points.

BIGGEST (DADDY'S) HOUSE

50 rooms, Cecil Fielder

Last year NSR brought you Mike Tyson's domestic monstrosity, complete with disco and fountain. This year's realty special belongs to Cecil Fielder. Big Daddy, who signed a lucrative contract to play for the Anaheim Angels, obviously doesn't mind throwing around a little money for his comfort. His Melbourne, Fla., home is just shy of 20,000 square feet and includes 50 rooms, basketball and tennis courts, a movie-house quality theater with an 11-foot screen, and an 8,000-bottle wine cellar. Late in the season, it looked as if Big Daddy would soon have more time to enjoy his abode, as the Angels released him.

COSTLIEST MISSING SHIRT

$40,000, Miami Dolphins

Some things remain mysteries—even if the price of silence is $40,000. Did Jeff Buckey, a guard for the Miami Dolphins, rub his jersey with an illegal slippery substance to prevent Detroit's pass linemen from manhandling him? Miami's woeful so-so offense needed all the help it could get. Still, short of Buckey fessing up, we'll never know what he did or did not do. Officials confiscated the shirt. But it was removed from their locker room and

washed before the NFL could inspect it. The league fined Miami $40,000 for the missing piece of clothing.

LOWEST TOURNAMENT RANKING

263, Prairie View

If one school deserved a little good luck, it was the largely minority Texas school. Denied athletic scholarships because of budget cuts, Prairie View's football team set records for ineptitude for much of the decade. The basketball team wasn't much better until the past couple of seasons when some scholarships were reinstated. Still, an automatic NCAA bid seemed unlikely against its better-funded foes in the Southwest Athletic Conference. In fact, reaching the tournament final against Texas Southern was remarkable considering the school's 10-16 regular-season record. Prairie View trailed by 20 points at halftime before winning a date with Kansas on a jump shot in the last 30 seconds. Its 263 power rating among 306 Division I teams was the lowest in the history of the NCAA tournament.

MOST REVOLUTIONS IN THE AIR

28, Olympics

None of Ilia Kulik's critics can accuse him of having shaky nerves now. If the men's figure skating competition at the Olympics had been a race, Kulik would have lapped the field. He skated with daring that no one in history has matched. In all he completed eight triple jumps and a spectacular quadruple on his long program. And he did so with an eerie calm that defied his poor notices entering the Games. Kulik was known to buckle under pressure in previous major competitions. He never made even the hint of a mistake for the four-and-a-half minutes he was on the ice—unless you consider his garish yellow and black shirt dubbed the giraffe slicker by horrified members of the media.

JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT

QUICKEST HOOK

11 games, Nardi Contreras

Normally, pitching coaches are the ones giving the hook, not receiving it. But Seattle waited less than three full pitching rotations to relieve Contreras of his duties. Up to that point, the Mariners had won just 3 times, posted a 7.01 ERA and not registered a save. That performance followed a season in which the team's hurlers had blown 27 saves, and an off-season in which Seattle had allegedly strengthened its bullpen. The team might better have blamed its pitchers than its coach, who could only tell his charges what to do but couldn't control how well they threw.

FEWEST POINTS, NBA PLAYOFF GAME

54, Utah Jazz

The Denver Nuggets could have done it. The Toronto Raptors might have. Based on their laughable history, the Los Angeles Clippers would have been as good a bet as any. But none of these sad sacks turned in arguably the NBA's worst performance ever. This dubious honor belonged to the Utah Jazz, owners of the league's best record. To boot, the Jazz scored 54 points—the fewest since the advent of the 24-second clock in 1954—in game three of the NBA championship series. Utah lost 96-54, a 42-point margin that set a record for a championship series. It scored just 23 points in the second half and hit a pathetic 21-70 from the field. Take away Karl Malone's respectable 8-11 shooting and the team's field goal percentage dropped below 30 percent. "This was a butt kicking," said Malone, never one to mince words. There was nothing else to say.

BIGGEST ECONOMIC IMPACT

$10 billion, Michael Jordan

The country formally known as Michael Jordan has built his assets to unprecedented proportions. His contract with the Chicago Bulls is alone worth some $35 million. Yet that represents only a fraction of his annual net worth and the billions more he generates in sales both for companies he represents and a variety of other organizations. In a June article, *Fortune* magazine estimated Jordan's financial impact at $10 billion.

LONGEST HOME RUN

545, Mark McGwire

Mark McGwire home runs have become events. They invite discussion about how hard and far a human can hit a baseball. McGwire seems to obliterate the ball. One pitcher called him Godzilla, a reference to the prehistoric-like monster of Japanese film fame. The comparison was unfair.

TODD WARSHAW/ALLSPORT

TALLEST WOMAN HOOPSTER

7-2, Malgorzata "Margo" Dydek

The Utah Starzz of the WNBA knew they were adding some needed height to their roster when they signed Poland's Dydek. They simply did not know how much taller they were getting. The Starzz had been told that Dydek was 6-6, a not unheard of size in women's basketball. Yet Dydek was eight inches taller than that and surprisingly agile. In her debut against none other than Lisa Leslie, who is widely considered the world's best player, Dydek scored 13 points and blocked 6 shots. Dydek's efforts couldn't prevent the Starzz from losing 89-83.

McGwire is a gentle big man. But his moonshots regularly crossed the 400-foot barrier and occasionally sailed over 500 feet. Yet against Florida's rag-tag pitching staff, McGwire outdid himself, hitting the longest home run in the Cardinals' Busch Stadium history. The ball landed high in the upper deck and would have cleared a less cavernous stadium.

MOST RUNS, TWO GAMES
50, Florida State

Florida State's football team typically racks up big point totals against overmatched foes. The school's baseball team was even more impressive in regional qualifying for the College World Series. The Seminoles blasted Delaware 27-6, as freshman Matt Diaz stroked three home runs. The following day, Diaz blasted another four home runs to lead Florida State to a 23-2 win over Oklahoma. Diaz's remarkable feat against Oklahoma and Florida State's two-game binge both set NCAA records for a regional playoff.

BEST TELEVISION RATINGS
61.4 million, Chicago-Indiana

The Eastern Conference finals between Chicago and Indiana did not always exhibit the best basketball. Defensive-minded playoff games with their constant grabbing and pushing rarely do. But for drama, it was difficult to remember a better series. There were so many story lines. Could Larry Bird coax his team to another unlikely victory? Would Reggie Miller hit another game-winning shot? Would Michael Jordan play his final game and the Bulls' run of championships end? Game seven underlined just how much the games resonated with fans. The 61.4 million of them who tuned in represented the largest television audience ever to watch an NBA game.

FEWEST GOLFERS UNDER PAR
0, British, U.S. Opens

The best golfers in the world are supposed to astound us with the ease they conquer golf holes that make the rest of us swoon. But a couple of times a year, usually at major championships, they are overwhelmed. This year's U.S. and British opens were especially difficult, though for different reasons. The American tournament confounded the pros because of the thick, rough, fast greens and devilish pin placements at the Olympic course near San Francisco. The British event at Royal Birkdale left the field limp because of the high winds that swept in off the Irish Sea and seemed to change directions every hole. Lee Janzen won the U.S. Open by shooting par. Mark O'Meara and Brian Watts, a little-known American, tied with the same mark at Royal Birkdale before O'Meara took a four-hole playoff.

JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT

MOST VOTES
4,202,830, Ken Griffey Jr.

He is not only baseball's best player but also its most popular. The Seattle Mariners centerfielder led all players in All-Star voting for the third consecutive year and the fourth time overall. It was also the ninth time that Griffey was selected to star the mid-season game. He finished 800,000 votes ahead of Cal Ripken, who finished with the next-best total.

COSTLIEST DRIVING MISTAKE
$1 million, Dale Jarrett

The veteran NASCAR driver clearly had the fastest car at the Brickyard 400 in Indianapolis. Jeff Gordon, who would win the race, said as much. But halfway through the race, Jarrett's crew underestimated the amount of fuel he had. He stalled and they had to push him into the pits. Jarrett lost four laps to the field and although he made up almost the entire distance, he finished a frustrated 16th, while Gordon pocketed a $1 million bonus for his win.

SECOND-MOST ABSURD LAWSUIT
$30 million, Latrell Sprewell

Let's get this straight. Latrell Sprewell, an individual with a considerable history of bizarre and occasionally violent behavior, chokes his coach and feels he has been wronged. A Federal judge rightly dismissed Sprewell's $30-million lawsuit against the NBA after a mediator had wrongly declared the league's one-year suspension too severe. Sprewell's suit had challenged the suspension, which was imposed after Sprewell throttled Golden State coach P.J. Carlesimo.

BIGGEST DINNER CHECK
$11,000, Sergei Fedorov

Unlike so many other high-priced athletes who sign their contracts and disappear behind an entourage, Sergei Fedorov understood that big money creates big resentment. So days after signing a six-year, $38-million contract, Detroit's Russian-born forward took his teammates and training staff to dinner. The bill for 28 people totaled $11,000. It was well-spent. Detroit's close-knit team maintained its chemistry all the way through the Stanley Cup final.

MOST EXPENSIVE TICKET
$40.78, NHL

Without a television contract to rival the big deals of football, basketball and baseball, and with player salaries increasing, hockey teams have needed to boost ticket prices. The average price to watch a game, $40.78, is almost $3 more than the average $38.09 NFL ticket, the second most expensive admission. An average NBA ticket is $36.32, while an average baseball ticket is a relatively good deal at $13.60. Mean-

OTTO GRELLE/ALLSPORT

MOST RUNS ALLOWED
14, Mike Oquist

On a game that was hopelessly lost, and with three games in two nights to follow, Oakland manager Art Howe did not want to waste his bullpen. So he allowed his young right-hander to absorb a pounding by the Yankees. Yankees' lead-off hitter Chuck Knoblauch jumped on Oquist for a home run. The Yankees added seven runs in the second inning, five in the third and another run in the fifth before Oquist was mercifully removed. He entered the game with a 5.87 ERA—hardly inspiring—and left the 14-1 pasting allowing almost a run per game more.

while, hockey's network television contracts with ESPN and Fox television lag far behind the other sports. They are worth just $217 million over five years. Football earns $17.6 billion over eight years from ABC, CBS, ESPN and Fox. The NBA's deal with NBC, TBS and TNT is for $2.46 billion over four years, while baseball is taking in $1.7 billion over five years from ESPN and Fox.

MOST MEANINGLESS WIN
6-1, Spain

The soccer was nearly flawless. The goals came so easily that it seemed that Spain could just about name its score against Bulgaria. But all the great playing amounted to nothing. Paraguay had defeated World Cup Group D leader Nigeria 3-1 and therefore finished with a better record. Spain, a darkhorse to win the tournament, was headed home earlier than it ever imagined possible. Spain could not overcome its stunning 3-2 loss to Nigeria in its opening game and managed only a tie against Paraguay.

MOST EXPENSIVE POSITION
$57 million, Washington defense

Frustrated by their inability to stop the run, the Washington Redskins spared no expense in improving their defensive line. They signed Dana Stubblefield, the NFL's best defensive tackle last season, to a six-year, $36-million contract, and surprised most of the league by then inking Dan Wilkinson, Cincinnati's talented but underachieving lineman, to a $21-million pact. The $57 million was the most that a team had spent on a position since the advent of new free agency rules six years ago. Yet the acquisitions also increased the stakes for Washington, which suddenly found itself the favorite for the Eastern division championship.

SMALLEST BASEBALL PAYROLL
$6 million, Florida Marlins

Before the season began the Marlins began purging their team of talented yet expensive players to stop the hemorrhaging of red ink. By August, they'd cut one of baseball's biggest payrolls to $6 million, just $1.5 million above the amount they'd have paid if all 25 players on the roster were receiving the minimum salary. Their record reflected the loss of talent, as only expansion teams Tampa Bay and Arizona came close to as many losses for the season. Florida's once loyal fans abandoned the team or came with hand-made signs berating management. Baseball was no longer a popular activity in South Florida.

MOST JOYOUS CELEBRATION
600,000 fans, Paris

Parisians are relatively blasé about soccer. They are too busy being Parisians, which means that nothing is good enough for them. But a day after France's triumph in the World Cup, everyone in the city was a soccer fan as a screaming, flag-waving crowd of 600,000 lined the Champs-Elysees to cheer their team one final time as it passed in an open, double-decker bus bearing the World Cup trophy. The avenue was so packed with people that the bus cut its trip off before reaching its planned destination, the Arc de Triomphe. The celebration was the largest, most joyous in Paris since the World War II Liberation of 1944.

DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT

TALLEST ACTOR
7-7, Gheorge Muresan

It was a bizarre year for Gheorge Muresan—bizarre even for someone who stands 7-7. The Washington Wizards center and tallest player in the NBA didn't play a lick because of a foot injury. Yet come the spring he was a more frequent presence than ever in the public eye: first on billboards, then at the Oscars, and finally in newspapers and magazines. The attention stemmed from Muresan's acting debut in *My Giant*, a forgettable comedy with Billy Crystal. Muresan received mixed reviews for the role. Some critics praised his earnest attempt to instill his character with pathos. Others felt Muresan acted with all the nuance of a toy soldier. Whatever, Muresan's film career was hardly as strange as the diagnosis of his injury: a pinched nerve in his foot exacerbated by eating bad fish. Muresan said a high level of toxins in his blood indicated that he had eaten the bad fish. The toxins occasionally cause nerve damage. Muresan planned to return for the 1998-99 season.

BEST HOOPS TURNAROUND
36 games, San Antonio

This turnaround from 20 to 56 wins and a first-round playoff win over Phoenix was not surprising. San Antonio welcomed back David Robinson, who had missed almost the entire previous season, and added Tim Duncan, the college Player of the Year. The pair gave the Spurs the league's best power forward-center combination. Both players averaged 21 points per game, finishing among the NBA's top 20 scorers. Duncan pulled down 12 rebounds and Robinson better than 10 boards to rank third and sixth respectively.

COSTLIEST NFL EXPANSION FRANCHISE
$400 million, Cleveland

Cleveland wanted a new pro football team badly. It got one when the league awarded the NFL's 31st franchise to the city, but the cost was steep—more than $400 million. That doubled the amounts paid by Jacksonville and Carolina—the last two expansion teams—less than five years ago. Still, cost was irrelevant for the city's diehard football fans, who felt heartbroken when their original Browns abandoned them a couple of years ago and became the Baltimore Ravens. The man who was vilified by Cleveland, not to mention the national media, for moving the original Browns, Art Modell, was among those who spoke on behalf of pro football returning to Cleveland.

MOST ABSURD RANKING
17, France

Why FIFA, soccer's international governing body, bothers with world rankings is a mystery. Anyone with even a little knowledge about the sport knew very well that eventual World Cup champion France deserved to be placed higher than No. 17, as it was rated in a pre-Cup poll. That ranking left France below, among others, the United States and Japan, who lived up to their traditional also-ran status by failing to win a game at soccer's most important event. Yet perhaps most ridiculous of all was Holland's No. 25 ranking. The Dutch had entered the World Cup as one of the two or three favorites to win the competition.

MOST STRIKEOUTS
20, Kerry Wood

For a pitcher in just his fifth major league start, Kerry Wood caught on quickly about how to handle hitters. Throw hard. The Chicago Cubs rookie struck out 20 Houston Astros in a brilliant 2-0 performance before an ecstatic Wrigley Field crowd. Wood tied Roger Clemens' major league record for the most whiffs in a nine-inning game. That it came against as solid an offensive team as Houston made the

mark all the more impressive. Wood fanned the first five batters. He struck out the dangerous Jeff Bagwell and Moises Alou three times apiece. Houston managed just one hit and two baserunners, and Wood drew comparisons with fellow Texans Clemens and Nolan Ryan.

RICHEST DOG RACE
$51,000, Iditarod

The king of all dog races now pays $51,000 first prize money. Jeff King pocketed the money this year, winning his third Iditarod. The 1,100-mile race ended with snow and wind so fierce that King struggled to see his lead dog Red over the last 77 miles. Still, he completed the trip from Anchorage, Alaska to Nome in 9 days, 5 hours and 52 minutes. Only two other drivers have won the race more times than King.

TALLEST TALK SHOW HOST
6-9, Magic Johnson

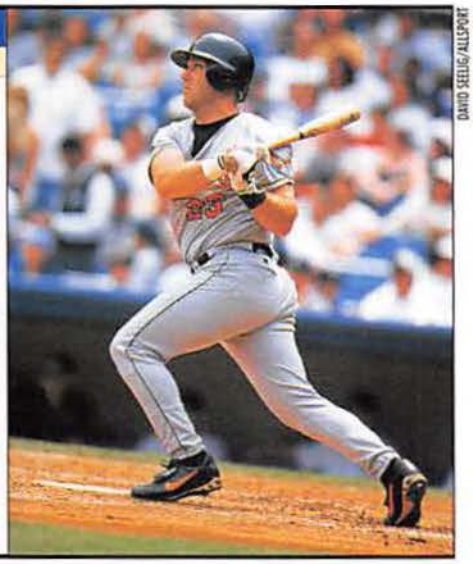
At least he tried. Magic Johnson's *Magic Hour* was anything but magical and was pulled faster than a point guard who doesn't pass. Johnson's magnetic smile and infinite charm couldn't compensate for silly monologues and an awkward interviewing style. Critics panned the show. Shock jock Howard Stern made fun of it and Magic—while he was a guest. *Sports Illustrated* called it "historically bad." That was harsh, considering the poor quality of other late-night talk shows. But viewers stayed away in droves and left stations with little choice but to cancel the program after only a couple of months. For his part, Johnson was resilient. He maintained his trademark smile and said the doomed program was worth the effort.

FEWEST POINTS, NBA REGULAR-SEASON GAME
55, Indiana Pacers

The grabathon defense that the NBA tolerates has sent scores plummeting. Yet the Pacers set a record for futility since the advent of the 24-second clock in a 74-55 loss to the San Antonio Spurs. Indiana would normally be an unlikely candidate to achieve such infamy. But playing without Reggie Miller, who was suspended after committing a flagrant foul in the previous game, and Rik Smits, it had no reliable scoring threat. Indiana hit just 21-77 shots, a pathetic 27 percent. Orlando, Philadelphia and Milwaukee held the previous mark of 57 points.

MOST GRAND SLAMS
2, Chris Hoiles

Hoiles' feat in Baltimore's 15-3 win at Cleveland was rarer even than the perfect game of the New York Yankees' David Wells earlier in the year. Hoiles became the first catcher and ninth major league player in history to stroke two grand slams in a game. Wells had been the 13th player to throw a perfect game. Hoiles smacked his first home run in the third inning to help the Orioles to a big lead. He hit his second round-tripper in the eighth and received an ovation from the remaining Indians' fans, including 20 friends and family. "I didn't know quite what to make of that," Hoiles told reporters. "I don't know if they became (Oriole) fans for a minute or what."



DAVID SEELIG/ALLSPORT

WORST HOLE
18, John Daly

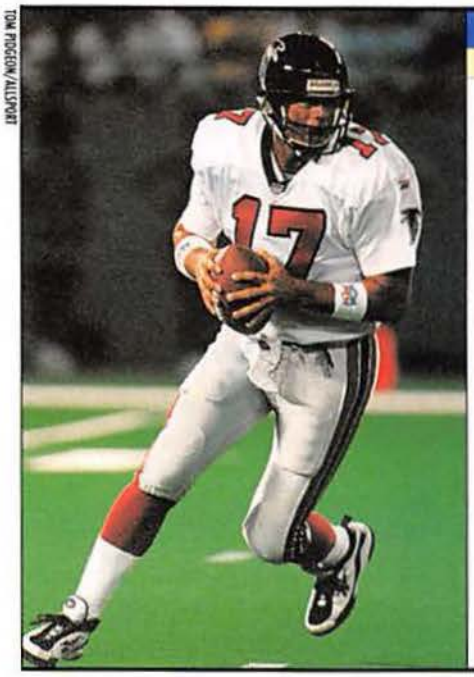
The big-hitting Daly has been unpredictable throughout his career, a major title winner at the PGA and British Open but hacker-like on other occasions. On the 543-yard, par-five sixth hole at the Bay Hill Invitational in Orlando, Fla., Daly was at his worst, carding an 18. He plunked his drive into the water and did the same with five three-woods. He hit his seventh shot into the hazard and had to take a drop. A six iron found a bunker. By the time he'd blasted out of the sand and holed out he had his 18. He scored a two on the next hole but finished with an 85 for the day.

LONGEST GOLF WIN
200 days, Phil Mickelson

El Niño rains and the resulting mudslides turned the Pebble Beach Pro-Am into a soppy mess. More than six months after tournament officials canceled the final two rounds, Phil Mickelson won the event and $450,000 first prize money. Mickelson also pocketed an extra $100,000 for winning the most money in eight PGA, West Coast tournaments. He and 132 of the original field of 168 returned to play just 18 holes. PGA officials had decided to shorten the tournament to 54 holes. Mickelson shot a 67 to win by one stroke over Tom Pernice, who won $270,000.

LEAST COSTLY BASEBALL TICKET
$6.81, Montreal

With their paltry ticket prices, it is no wonder the Montreal Expos can't afford to keep its best players every year. Montreal's $6.81 admission average was the major leagues' lowest by more than $1.50 and roughly a third of the amount that Boston, which had the highest ticket prices, charges. Small market teams Cincinnati and Milwaukee had the second and third cheapest average prices. Big payroll clubs like the New York Yankees, Chicago White Sox and Baltimore Orioles had the second, third and fourth most expensive tickets. Yet money didn't guarantee success as only New York posted a knockout record.



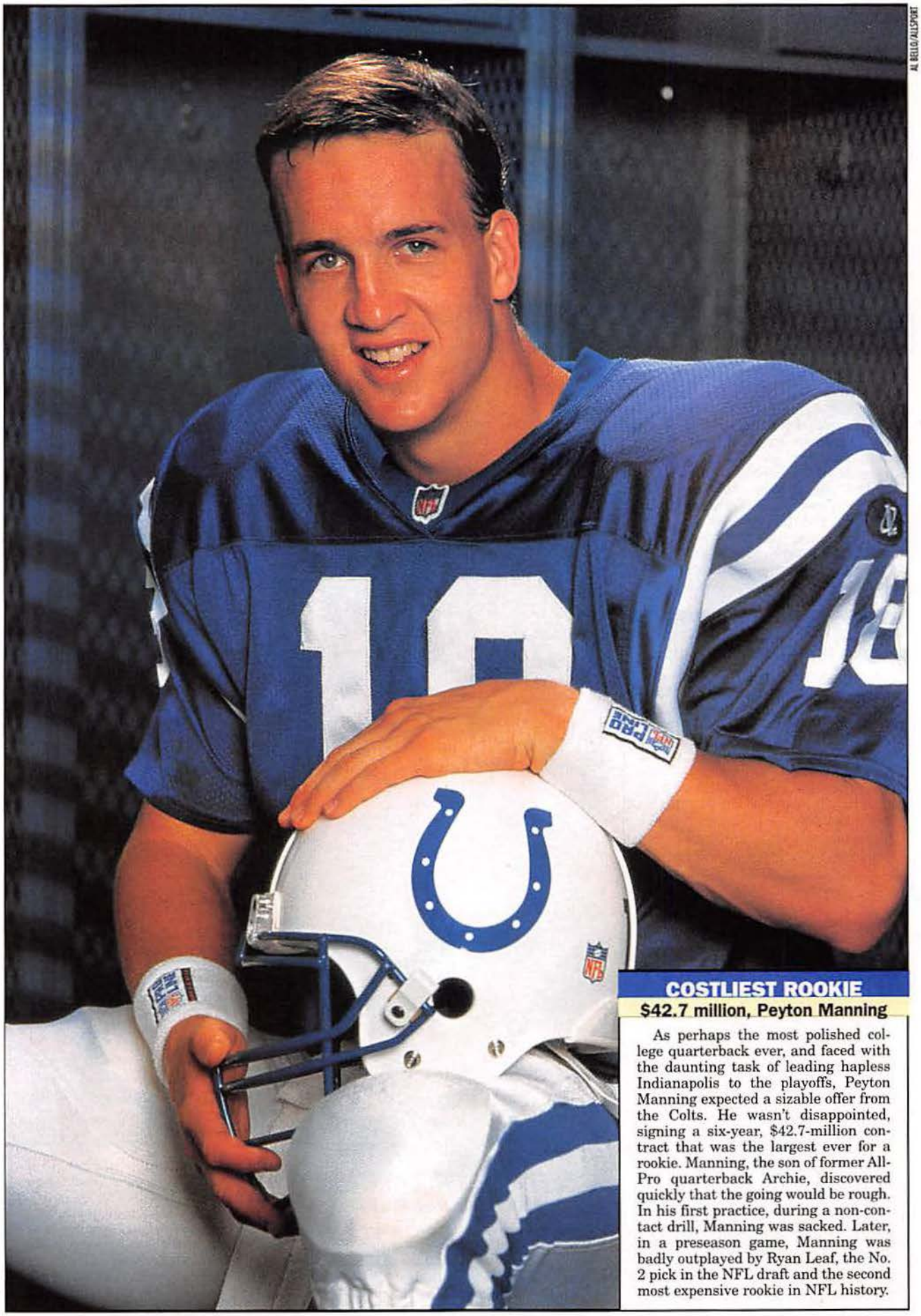
TOM PIDGEON/ALLSPORT

OLDEST QUARTERBACK
44, Steve DeBerg

While he ranks among the NFL's best coaches, Dan Reeves' judgment about quarterbacks has been occasionally puzzling. His signing of the 44-year-old DeBerg was perhaps his strangest move yet. DeBerg, who had coached under Reeves in New Jersey, played only sparingly in his later years in the league and lacked the sort of mobility to keep away from big, fast linemen. DeBerg had never been known for his arm strength. With the injury-prone Chris Chandler starting, it seemed likely that DeBerg would see action. But he did not seem capable of quarterbacking the team for any length of time or leading a late-game comeback. Such failings invited the question, what was Reeves thinking? Then again, DeBerg's presence was not entirely surprising. Reeves was the same coach who kept bringing back the hapless Tommy Maddox but feuded with John Elway.

MOST NBA FANS
62,046, Atlanta-Chicago

Notoriously apathetic Atlanta sports fans poured into the Georgia Dome to watch what they believed might be Michael Jordan's last game in Atlanta. The crowd of 62,046 broke the old NBA record of 61,983 set in 1988 at a Boston-Detroit matchup in the Pontiac Silverdome, but could not root the hometown Hawks past the Bulls, as Chicago won 89-74. Meanwhile, some 8,000 fans who attended the game had no view of the court and had to



AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

COSTLIEST ROOKIE

$42.7 million, Peyton Manning

As perhaps the most polished college quarterback ever, and faced with the daunting task of leading hapless Indianapolis to the playoffs, Peyton Manning expected a sizable offer from the Colts. He wasn't disappointed, signing a six-year, $42.7-million contract that was the largest ever for a rookie. Manning, the son of former All-Pro quarterback Archie, discovered quickly that the going would be rough. In his first practice, during a non-contact drill, Manning was sacked. Later, in a preseason game, Manning was badly outplayed by Ryan Leaf, the No. 2 pick in the NFL draft and the second most expensive rookie in NFL history.

watch the action on two large video screens.

LONGEST GAME
23 innings, Greenville-Huntsville

"Marathon" is too obvious a word to describe this August double-A matchup in the Southern League. The game carried over two days and lasted 6 hours and 26 minutes before the Greenville (S.C.) Pirates finally won 10-7 in the bottom of the 23rd on an Adam Johnson three-run home run. Play was suspended shortly after 1 a.m. on a Friday and fans with ticket stubs were admitted for its completion the following day. The teams stranded a total of 37 runners and struck out 37 times.

OLDEST BOXING CHAMPION
48, Joe Bugner

At least George Foreman could make you laugh and was always a threat to connect with one of his sledgehammer right hands. Foreman won a world championship with one of those humungous punches, and otherwise showed an astounding ability to absorb a beating. But his performances unfortunately inspired several of his contemporaries to returning to boxing. Bugner was best known for his imitation of a punching bag when he fought Muhammad Ali two decades ago. But Bugner won something called the World Boxing Federation championship when his opponent threw too many punches with too much force, dislocated his right shoulder, and had to withdraw.

COSTLIEST FULLBACK
$32 million, Mike Alstott

Not long ago, such sums were unheard of for a quarterback. Now the top players at a position that has traditionally been supportive command big bucks. Fullbacks block, catch passes and run when teams want to throw a change-up at the opposition. But All-Pro Mike Alstott did all of the above so well that Tampa Bay made him the richest fullback of all, signing Alstott to a five-year pact that could bring him $32 million.

BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT

SHORTEST WORLD NO. 1
5-9, Marcelo Rios

In the days before tennis attracted athletes who'd look at home in an NFL locker room, 5-foot-9 Rod Laver ruled the game and Ken Rosewall, who stood roughly the same height, was his toughest opponent. Now the successful small player is a rarity, which makes 5-9 Marcelo Rios' feat all the more remarkable. The Chilean lefthander trounced Andre Agassi 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the Lipton Championships to unseat Pete Sampras as the world's best player. The talented but moody Rios had built his success on a somewhat improved fighting spirit. He reached the finals of the Australian Open and won the *Newsweek* Championships before capturing The Lipton. Meanwhile, Pete Sampras struggled after remaining on top for 102 weeks, the third-longest reign since men's tennis started using a computer points system to determine its best player.

MOST GOLF POINTS
47, Vijay Singh

When you're hot, you're... You know the rest—and the newly crowned PGA champ embodied the old chestnut about having momentum when he tore through the Sprint International in Castle Rock, Colo. Singh finished with 47 points. The tournament awards points for birdies and eagles

ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT

CHEAPEST SUPER BOWL QUARTERBACK
$300,000, John Elway

The Denver Broncos quarterback wasn't satisfied with one Super Bowl win so he agreed to rework his contract—twice. He received just $300,000 in salary, deferring payment of the remaining $3.7 million he was due until after the season, so Denver could sign players they might otherwise have lost for budgetary reasons. Elway's second reworking came a few days after he journeyed to a motorcycle rally in Idaho to try to talk long-time left tackle Gary Zimmerman into coming out of retirement.

OTTO GREULE/ALLSPORT

OLDEST THIEF

39, Rickey Henderson

The Oakland A's outfielder hardly looks or plays his age. Stomach muscles ripple like they did in 1990 when he won the American League's MVP award. He still hits for power. And he hasn't lost much of his vaunted speed and timing, which carried him to a major-league record 130 steals in 1982. Just a couple of months before his 40th birthday, Henderson led the American League in stolen bases.

and subtracts them for bogies. Leading when the final round began, Singh stretched his lead by carding five birdies on the front nine, and clinched the title with an eagle on the 17th hole. He took home the first prize of $360,000. Willie Wood and defending champion Phil Mickelson tied for second with 41 points. Tiger Woods was a distant third with 38 points.

HIGHEST GREEN FEE

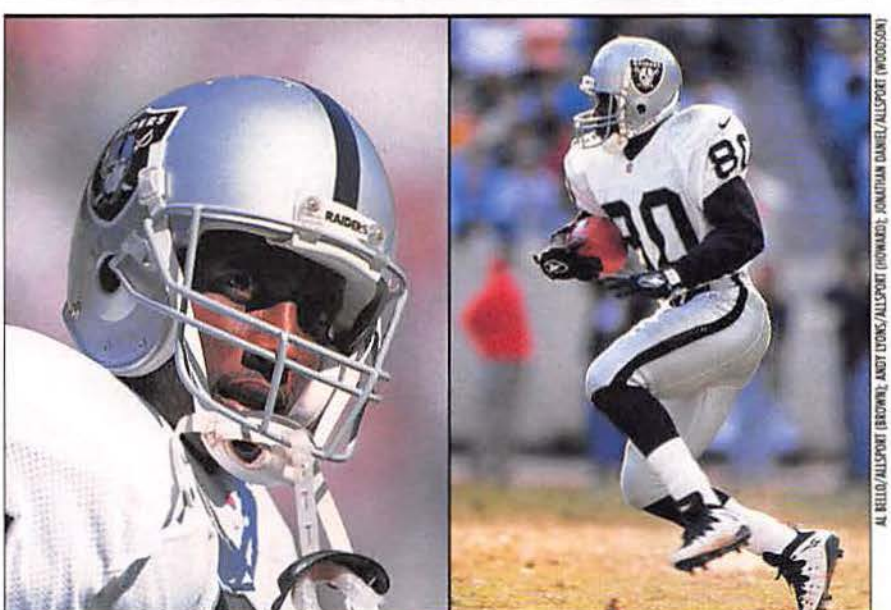
$85.70, Hawaii

The wonder of golf's rise in popularity in recent years is that people are willing to fork over so much money to play. In Hawaii, the $85.70 they must pay in daily green fees would buy them a couple of months membership at a gym, two tennis lessons, or a meal at one of the finest restaurants in any town.

BEST LONG BALL SPAN

3 seasons, Mark McGwire

By late August, it was official: Mark McGwire had out-Babed the Babe—at least over the past three seasons. In late August, against the Mets, the St. Louis Cardinals' slugger smashed his 50th home run, becoming the first player to break that barrier for three consecutive seasons. Ruth held the previous mark of two. McGwire's 52nd shot a few days later gave him 162 over the past three years and pushed him one past the famed Yankee's best total. McGwire also rivaled the Babe for popularity. Both records came on the road and were richly rewarded with loud ovations by often harsh New York and Pittsburgh fans.



JOHN BOYKIW (TOP LEFT), DAMIAN STRMOTICH (TOP RIGHT), AL BELLO/ALLSPORT (BOTTOM)

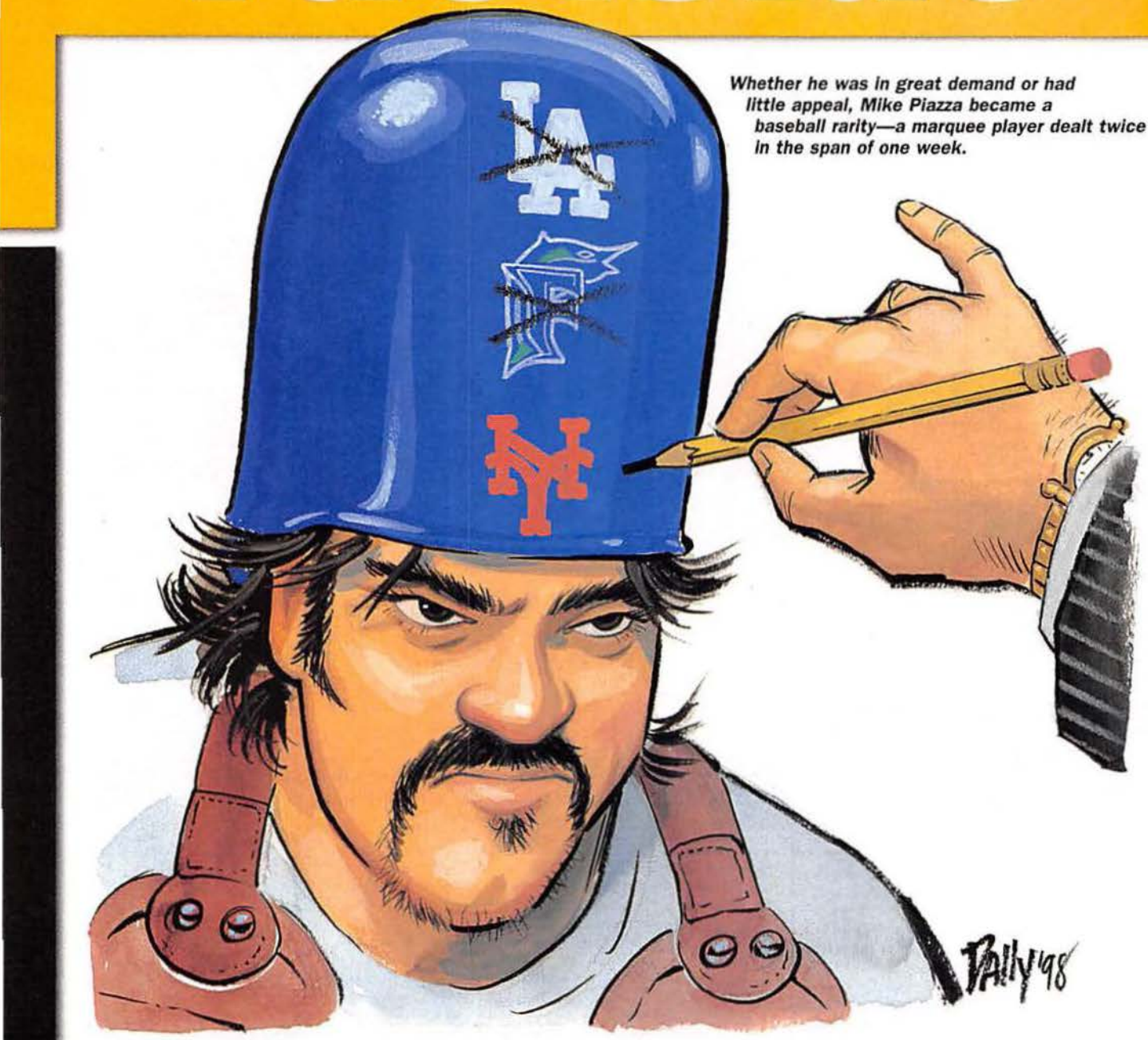
MOST HEISMAN WINNERS

3, Oakland Raiders

The Oakland Raiders like Heisman Trophy winners. Seven of them have donned the Raiders' black and silver uniforms, including the three who opened this year's training camp in mid-July. Charles Woodson *(at right)*, the cocky Michigan cornerback who was the team's top draft pick, joined Tim Brown *(top left)*, the All-Pro wide receiver, and former Super Bowl hero Desmond Howard *(top right)*. Yet this talented trio differed from Oakland's previous winners—Billy Cannon, Jim Plunkett, Marcus Allen and Bo Jackson—in one huge respect. With the Raiders struggling in recent years, they were being asked to rescue a losing team, not enhance a winning program.

THE NATIONAL SPORTS REVIEW

Factoids



Whether he was in great demand or had little appeal, Mike Piazza became a baseball rarity—a marquee player dealt twice in the span of one week.

FROM SOUND OFF TO SIDELINE II

We got Ditka and Vermeil. Why shouldn't **Jim Mora** return to the sidelines? Mora, the 62-year-old former Saints coach who was last seen berating his team in a profanity-inflected tirade, spent 1997 in the NBC broadcast booth. But when the Indianapolis Colts, fresh from a woeful 3-13 season came calling, Mora didn't hesitate. He returned to the sidelines, joining **Mike Ditka** and **Dick Vermeil**, who also left broadcasting to coach again. Of course, that pair won a total of only 11 games. Mora may regret his decision.

GLORIOUS END

Jackie Joyner-Kersee was entitled to slip up in her last meet, a lovefest entitled "Track and Field's Farewell to JJK." For over a decade Joyner-Kersee stood as the world's greatest female athlete. She'd won gold medals and world championships in the heptathlon, the grueling event that tested speed, strength and endurance. She'd done the same in the long jump, despite a slew of tough opponents. She'd performed with dignity and courage, overcoming asthma and a variety of leg injuries. A week before her good-bye, although far from her best form, Joyner-Kersee took first place in the heptathlon at the Goodwill Games. When she arrived in Edwardsville, she was exhausted from that effort and a number of appearances leading up to the event. She jumped no further than 20-feet-11¾ inches, nearly four feet less than her all-time best. Still, no one departed disappointed. The crowd stood and cheered while Joyner-Kersee wept.

LARRY LEGEND RETURNS

Indiana at Boston has never aroused much notice on the NBA calendar. This season's first meeting in Beantown was different, as the Sunday afternoon game on national television marked the return of **Larry Bird**—as coach of the Indiana Pacers. The former Celtics star had left his front office post with Boston under less than ideal circumstances. He had been pushed aside when the Celtics—at his urging—signed **Rick Pitino** as coach and personnel mastermind. Both teams had already profited from the changes. Boston had won almost as many games as it had the previous season. Indiana enjoyed the Eastern Conference's best record. The game proved worthy of the occasion. With 2:18 left, Indiana led 94-93. Then **Reggie Miller** hit a 3-point shot and the Pacers spurted to a 103-96 win. Bird, who has never felt comfortable with the limelight, denied that the game possessed any special meaning and refused to sit for NBC's proverbial pregame interview. Still, people near him knew that he wanted to win badly. Indeed, he was visibly pleased with the win.

MADDEN STAYS PUT

For weeks, as the NFL negotiated with television networks over their next contract, a secondary issue emerged. Wherefore **John Madden**? Pro football's (perhaps pro sports') most beloved voice was rumored to be heading to ABC. Or was he merely throwing a bone to the press and leveraging his position at Fox? The **Murdoch** network, fresh from overpaying to the tune of $4.4 billion for NFC games, re-signed Madden for a cool $8 million a year.

Jackie Joyner-Kersee retires

Larry Bird's return to Boston

Venus Williams loses battle of the sexes

THE HALL TURNS SUTTONESQUE...

Hall of Fame voters weren't sure about **Don Sutton**. While he'd won 324 games, the eighth most in this century, he'd needed 23 years to do it. Indeed, he'd won 20 or more games just one season. Among the 55 pitchers in the Hall of Fame, only **Jim Bunning** had reached that mark so few times—and Bunning was selected by the Veterans' Committee. Some voters questioned whether a vote for Sutton was a vote for quantity, not quality. In the end, they found more than enough of the latter in Sutton's sterling 3.24 ERA and 3,574 strikeouts, the fifth most in history. The former Los Angeles Dodger won easy selection after being turned away for four years. **Tony Perez**, the former Cincinnati Reds slugger, was not so fortunate despite his own superb 23-year career. He fell 4 votes shy of the necessary 355.

...AND DOBYESQUE

The only question that really needed to be asked is what took so long for **Larry Doby** to be elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame. The 73-year-old Doby was voted in by the Hall's veterans' panel four decades after he became the first African-American to break the color barrier in the American League. Doby put up with the same taunts **Jackie Robinson** did—and with equal grace. Like Robinson, he also excelled on the field. He was a fine hitter and outfielder who helped the Cleveland Indians win their last World Series.

SHAQ'S UNPLEASANT ADVENTURE

Orlando fans were not in a forgetful mood when **Shaquille O'Neal** returned to town. They took a special delight in their Magic's 96-94 win over the Lakers. They had waited more than a year to vent at their former star, who left the Magic for the Los Angeles Lakers in a messy ordeal. They booed O'Neal when he was announced and then every time he touched the ball. O'Neal claimed not to mind the negative vibes. But Magic players and even Lakers' coach **Del Harris** said he appeared tense. O'Neal had enjoyed the best moments of his career with Orlando, leading the Magic to the 1995 NBA final. After the 1996 season though, he decided he wanted more money than management thought he was worth. Orlando fans resented O'Neal's greed and backed the Magic in the team's negotiations. O'Neal left in a huff. Still, a knee injury prevented him from competing for Los Angeles against Orlando last season. This year he was healthy—although not well enough to prevent the loss.

SISTER ACT I

The Williams sisters have never lacked for confidence. They figured that their piercing groundstrokes could trouble even some of the best men's players in the world. So at the Australian Open they went looking for one who would play them. **Karsten Braasch**, a bespectacled German ranked in the 200s,

PHOTO CREDITS: STEPHEN DUNN/ALLSPORT (JOYNER KERSEE); BRIAN SPURLOCK (BIRD); AL BELLO/ALLSPORT (WILLIAMS)

accepted their challenge. If he was feeling any pressure about this battle of the sexes, Braasch did not show it. He eased up on his normally big serve but still routed both sisters. First he trounced **Serena** 6-1, and then he beat **Venus** 6-2.

STAR WITHOUT A HOME

The guy who may finish his career as the best-hitting player in the history of his position should be among the most coveted players in baseball. Yet come the middle of May, **Mike Piazza** seemed to have all the appeal of a utility infielder. Dissatisfied with their star's inability to lead them to a championship, the Los Angeles Dodgers shipped their star catcher to Florida. But Piazza's travels were not over. A week later, Piazza had been dealt to the New York Mets.

ROY WILLIAMS' STAND

Tired of hearing about some know-it-all teenager dictating terms to the sports world? Kansas coach **Roy Williams** was. Williams appeared the likely winner in the recruiting competition for Kansas prep star **LaRon Rush**. But Rush said he was reconsidering an earlier commitment to Kansas because Williams had the audacity to substitute too much. Imagine that, a coach who decides who plays and for how long. Williams' system, which he adapted from his long stint as an assistant coach for **Dean Smith**—another coach who favored shuffling his players in and out—has merely kept Kansas near the top of college basketball's rankings. When Rush mouthed off, Williams heard enough. He promptly said he was no longer interested in Rush, who wound up at troubled UCLA.

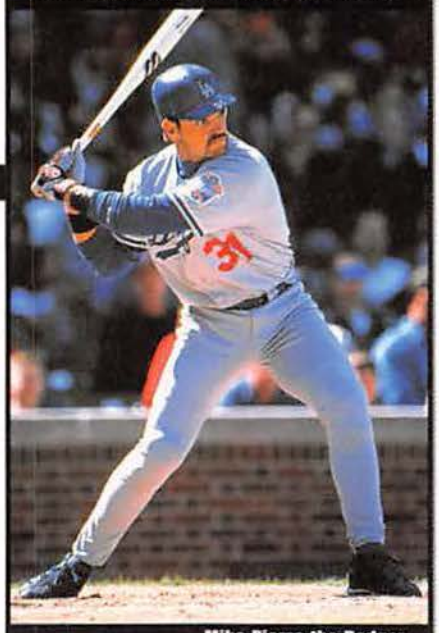
NUGGETS WIN

Leave it to the Los Angeles Clippers to lose even when there's seemingly no possible way they should. While the rest of the NBA beat up on the Denver Nuggets, the Clips somehow managed to lose to Denver twice in the first four months of the season. The second defeat came as Denver rode a 23-game losing streak and had dropped 38 of its first 40 games. Yet Los Angeles fell behind by 25 points and never threatened Denver in the 99-81 loss. At least the Clippers allowed Denver's woeful scorers to convert over 50% of their shots, while hitting only 26-70 themselves. At least they lost gracefully. Coach **Bill Fitch**, who suffered his share of heartache while coaching the expansion Cleveland Cavaliers in the 1970s, presented the game ball to his Denver counterpart **Bill Hanzlik**.

...AND WIN AGAIN

Coach **Bill Hanzlik** could finally breathe easily. His Denver Nuggets had played their best game of the season in a 128-103 rout of the Sacramento Kings. They'd won their 10th game, one more than the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers. Denver would not have to share the ignominious title of worst team in NBA history. For much of the season, it seemed as if Denver would exceed the 76ers in futility—undeservedly. Denver played reasonably hard throughout the season. It had talent in **Danny Fortson**, **Cory Alexander** and **LaPhonso Ellis**, and a capable coach in Hanzlik. By the end of the season, coach and team had shaken off the disappointment of losing regularly to play its best basketball. Still, upon beating Sacramento, Hazlik couldn't resist a little humor at his team's expense. "With the way this season has been, we'll probably be called for running an illegal play and have to forget the game," he said.

Mike Piazza's Wild Ride



Mike Piazza the Dodger

Mike Piazza the Marlin

Mike Piazza the Met

BRAINPOWER

What to do with the Princeton Tigers basketball team? No one really was able to figure them out. Not Texas and its sly coach **Tom Penders**. Not frequent Atlantic Coast Conference powers North Carolina State or Wake Forest. Princeton beat both. Not even North Carolina, the number-one ranked team in the country for much of the season. Princeton would have beaten North Carolina on the road if it converted better than 12% of its normally deadly three-point shots. In all, Princeton performed better than any Ivy League school had in almost two decades. This was no typical Princeton team. Oh, it was still brainier than any other team in the country. It still flummoxed opponents with its sticky defense and offense of 1,000 cuts and countermoves. Against Niagara, a Princeton player assisted on every basket. Yet it also possessed more athleticism than past Princeton teams. Just one tall, athletic player more and the Tigers might have even challenged for the national championship.

NO PLAYER TO BE NAMED LATER

When North American pro teams are cash-strapped they trade their high-priced stars for prospects, players to be named later, cash, or all of the above. In Romania, poor teams exchange players for goods—at least that's what **Jiul Petrosani** did. The first-division team (the Romanian equivalent of America's Major League Soccer) sent one player, **Ion Radu**, to a second-division team for two tons of meat. It traded another player, **Liviu Balcea**, for equipment.

WHO'S RUNNING THE SHOW?

We do not long for the days of tyrannical coaches and skinflint managers. But the present shift in power to the players is also badly out of whack. Just about the time that an arbitrator shortened the one-year suspension of **Latrell Sprewell**—the Golden State Warrior who attacked his coach twice—the Los Angeles Lakers decided that they did not like their highly decent and competent coach **Del Harris**. In March, reports circulated that the team wanted Harris fired. Never mind Harris' outstanding record with a talented but scatterbrained roster. Coaches can't force players to focus. But they can be used to deflect criticism when players aren't doing their jobs as well as they should.

COMEBACKS

With great players in any sport, you often don't know what you're missing until they're absent. **Andre Agassi** and **Steffi Graf**, both of whom delighted fans with their good form at the tough *Newsweek* Tournament in Indian Wells, had done so well for so long that fans assumed they would continue right along for another decade. But

PHOTO CREDITS: HARRY HOW/ALLSPORT (TOP); ANDY HAYT/ALLSPORT (MID); DAVID SEELIG/ALLSPORT (BOT)

1997 saw them both slump because of lagging motivation and injury. And suddenly it was clear that they had already completed most of their careers. There would not be many more opportunities to watch them at or near their best. Indian Wells, the first important tournament in the U.S., was therefore easy to relish. Agassi obliterated two-time French Open champion **Sergi Bruguera** in the second round so easily, it seemed as if he were playing a club pro. Graf, who had missed eight months with a knee injury, barely seemed to sweat in reaching the semifinals. Neither won the tournament, but by the middle of the summer both had climbed back up the rankings.

TENNIS, TOO

Jim Courier, another player who was ranked number one in the world, struggled almost as much as Agassi at the end of 1997. Yet he was still good enough to rescue the U.S. in Davis Cup. He clinched the U.S.'s first- and second-round wins over Russia and Belgium. Against the former, he took a thrilling five-set match from **Marat Safin**, and was mobbed by his teammates. Against the latter, he won his singles and made a rare yet successful doubles appearance, winning with **Todd Martin**. All this despite seeing his ranking fall into the 60s.

NOT ALWAYS A TIGER

Tiger Woods doesn't always win the close ones. Woods seemed to have his first tour victory of 1998 in the bag with one hole left at the Nissan Open. He birdied three of the last four holes of the Valencia, Calif., course to lead by a stroke. But **Billy Mayfair**, a roundish, unathletic looking journeyman who hadn't won in three years, equaled Woods with his own birdie on the 18th hole. The ensuing playoff ended quickly. Woods drove into the rough while Mayfair slammed home a five-foot birdie putt to capture the $378,000 first prize.

DRAFT FOR DEFENSE

With **Ryan Leaf**, **Peyton Manning** and the great quarterback debate drawing most of the attention, Florida State's **Andre Wadsworth** received relatively little notice for a player who some experts thought was really the best in the draft. But Arizona, which was satisfied with its young quarterback **Jake Plummer**, knew whom it needed. It agreed to change positions in the draft from second to third so that San Diego could select Manning or Leaf. Then the Cardinals snapped up Wadsworth, who notched 16 sacks as a senior, to bolster their already impressive defensive line.

INTENTIONAL WALK

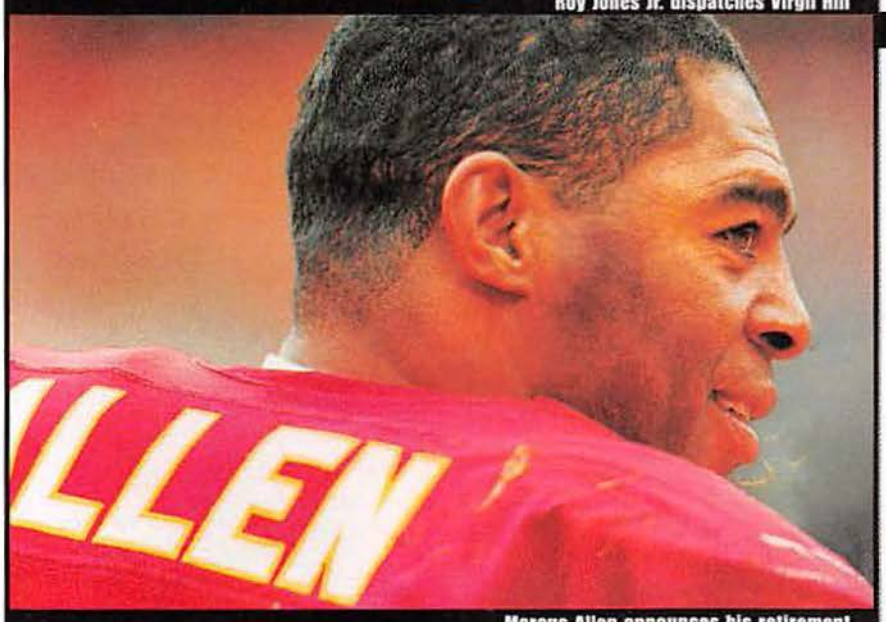
You're the manager. Your team leads by two runs in the ninth inning. But with two outs, the other team loads the bases and sends its best hitter—one of the best hitters of the past decade—to the plate. What do you do? Keep the ball low and hope he grounds out? Throw him smoke and pray for a strikeout? Walk him? The third possibility defies common baseball wisdom that you never, ever give away a run. Yet Arizona Diamondbacks' skipper **Buck Showalter** couldn't have cared less about precedent. He elected to walk the Giants' **Barry Bonds** with his team up 8-6 and one out away from a rare victory. The strategy paid off—barely. The next batter worked the count to 3-2 before lining out to right field. It was the first time in 54 years that a manager decided to walk a hitter with the bases loaded. On that previous occurrence, New York Giants' manager **Mel Ott** walked the Cubs' **Bill Nicholson** in the second game of a doubleheader after Nicholson had already homered four times on the day.

STEPHEN DUNN/ALLSPORT (JONES); JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT (ALLEN)

Roy Jones Jr. dispatches Virgil Hill

AND STILL CHAMPION...

When he sets his mind to the task at hand, **Roy Jones Jr.** doesn't waste much time in dispatching his overmatched opponents. In April, the light heavyweight champion turned **Virgil Hill**, a more than respectable fighter who'd won 43 of 45 bouts, into a moving heavy bag. After gaining the upper hand in the first three rounds, Jones unleashed his full repertoire of heavy punches. Two right hands to the body practically caved in a side of Hill's rib cage and sent him to the canvas. He tried to continue, but the fight was stopped. The confident Jones renewed his interest in finding competition in the heavyweight division.



Marcus Allen announces his retirement

ALLEN'S RETIREMENT

Strange to imagine a football season .. without **Marcus Allen**. With tears running down his cheeks, the Chiefs running back announced his retirement from football. At the time, it seemed as if Allen had been leaping over piles of tacklers and scooting around them, oh, since "Grease was the word." Allen didn't enter the national spotlight too much later than the movie musical. He starred at USC in the early 1980s, becoming the first college running back to gain 2,000 yards in a season. Drafted by the Oakland Raiders in the days when the team actually lived up to its fierce reputation, Allen won Rookie of the Year honors in 1982 and captured the NFL's Most Valuable Player award four years later.

Allen led the Raiders, who by that time were playing in Los Angeles, to a Super Bowl XVIII win. He later feuded with Raiders' owner **Al Davis**, which is why he finished his career with Oakland's long-

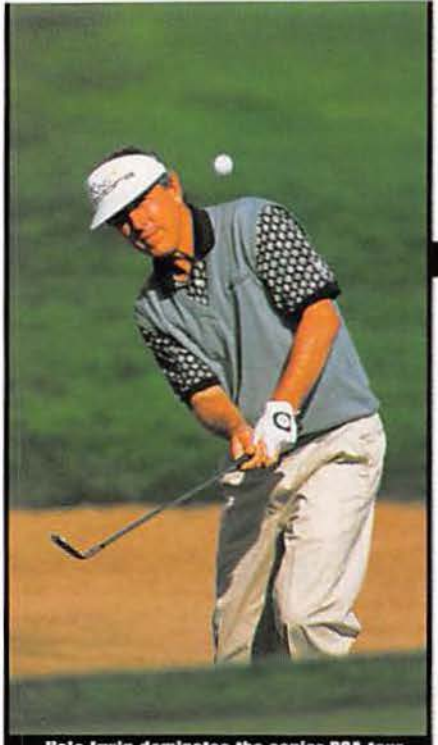
time rival Kansas City. As much as for his individual honors, Allen will be known for his longevity. He played 16 seasons, a remarkable number for a running back. He ranked first among running backs in career receptions and second among all players with 145 touchdowns. He also was sixth all-time in rushing yards with 12,243 yards. Articulate and at ease before the camera, Allen joined CBS as an announcer for its newly won package of AFC games.

ELEMENTARY, WATSON

Little more than a decade ago, a **Tom Watson** victory was nothing special. Back then Watson was regularly jousting for major championships and hovering around the top of the PGA's prize money list. But Watson grew older. He lost his nerve and putting touch and the victories dwindled. This May, he won for just the second time in nine years, shooting a four-under-par 66 on the final day to capture the MasterCard Colonial at Fort Worth, Tex. He finished at 15 under par for the tournament.

EL DUQUE

A year ago, **Orlando Hernandez** was in his native Cuba with seemingly minimal prospects to continue his remarkable pitching career. Now he's the toast of New York and possibly the best pitcher on baseball's best staff. "El Duque," as he is affectionately known, had fallen out of favor with the Castro government after his brother defected to the United States. He escaped and signed a hefty contract with the Yankees. Since Hernandez had not played competitively for more than a year, he was supposed to spend most of his first American season in the minor leagues. But he dominated hitters at Triple-A and when injuries left the Yankees without a starter for a game, Hernandez was called in to make his debut. By August he'd won eight of his first 11 games and his ERA was under 3.00. For the season, he was 12-4 with a 3.13 ERA in 21 starts, and had earned a spot in the postseason rotation.



HARRY HOW/ALLSPORT

Hale Irwin dominates the senior PGA tour

HAIL HALE

By the end of the U.S. Senior Open, little question remained about who was the world's best senior golfer. **Hale Irwin**, the fiery, former college football player, dominated the senior PGA tour. By the halfway mark, the 53-year-old Irwin had won five times, including the PGA Seniors Championship and U.S. Senior Open. In the latter tournament, he fought off a first-round, six-over-par 77 that left him seven strokes behind the leader on the Riviera Country Club's toughened-up course. Irwin refused to speak with the media after his poor start, but shot five under par for the remainder of the tournament. **Vicente Fernandez** finished one stroke back.

BIRD IN THE HALL

The good news only continued for **Larry Bird** after he led the Indiana Pacers to the Eastern Conference finals. The NBA's Coach of the Year and former league MVP was honored for his playing talents as he was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Bird was typically modest about his achievement, calling it "a great honor." The Harlem Globetrotters' former dribbling wizard **Marques Haynes**, former NBA coach **Alex**

AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez makes his U.S. debut

Hannum, Texas women's coach **Jody Conradt**, former NBA center **Arnie Risen** and **Aleksandar Nikolic**, who coached in Italy and Yugoslavia, were also inducted.

O'BRIEN'S "GOODWILL"

Although he hadn't lost a decathlon meet since 1992, **Dan O'Brien** was jittery when he took the field at the Goodwill Games. Injuries, including a stress fracture of his right leg, had kept O'Brien out of competition for two years. After the first day of competition, O'Brien trailed U.S. teammate **Chris Huffins** by 45 points. But he quickly erased that deficit, running a personal best decathlon time of 13.67 seconds in the 110-meter hurdles. He later cleared 17 feet, 3/4 inches in the pole vault to seal his victory. He finished with 8,755 points, a meet record.

ASTRO RANDY

The season's most coveted pitcher found the National League to his liking. Just a couple of days after Seattle traded him to Houston, **Randy Johnson** showed his old spark in a 6-2 win over Pittsburgh. Johnson struck out 12 batters in seven innings. It was a nearly ideal debut for the 6-foot-10 Big Unit, who had admittedly lost focus as he clashed with Mariners' management. The deal to the Astros was somewhat surprising, as the New York Yankees and Cleveland Indians seemed to have the inside track on acquiring him. Yet Johnson was hardly certain that his stint in Texas would last beyond the Astros' pennant drive, as he was sure to attract considerable attention on the free agent market.

MICHIGAN'S SAD DAY

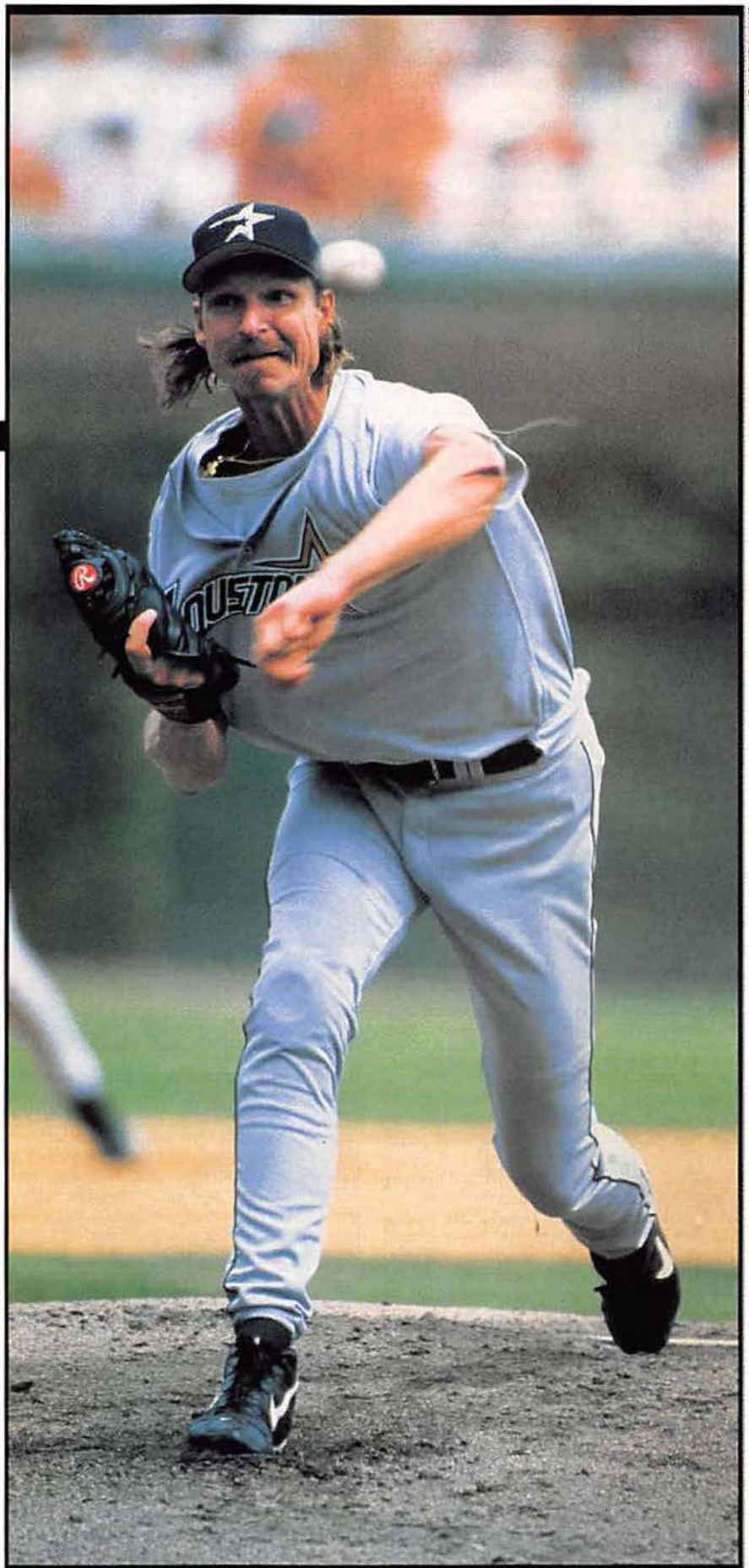
Jimmy Moore edged **Jimmy Vasser** and **Alex Zanardi** to win the U.S. 500. Yet one of the most exciting races in CART history—10 drivers were on the last lap when Moore crossed the finish line—will be remembered instead for tragedy. Three spectators died and a half dozen were injured when they were struck by a tire and other debris that ricocheted into the stands after **Adrian Fernandez** hit a wall in the 175th lap of the 250-lap race. The objects cleared a 15-foot protective fence. The three fatalities were the first at the Brooklyn, Mich., speedway since 1969.

GYMNASTICS TRAGEDY

Gymnasts make their flips, twists and tumbles look so easy, spectators often overlook the risks of their routines. At the Goodwill Games, 17-year-old Chinese gymnast **Sang Lan** landed headfirst while practicing warming up for the vault. The fall left Lan paralyzed and possibly wheelchair-bound for the rest of her life.

RIPKEN MISSES A GAME

His streak may have seen its end late in the season, but big Ripken news was made earlier in the season. Headline writers around the country had some fun reporting on **Cal Ripken**'s absence from the 52nd Hall of Fame game. Baltimore's 7-1 win over Toronto was an exhibition that didn't count in the record books. When the Orioles resumed their regular-season schedule against the Tigers, Ripken was, as usual, at third base.



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

Randy Johnson thrived in his new late-season uniform

LaFONTAINE'S OVERDUE GOOD-BYE

Pat LaFontaine, who in August retired after a 15-year NHL career, should have quit last year. LaFontaine had suffered five concussions leading into the 1997-98 season. But like many professional athletes, he was unwilling to leave the profession that had meant so much to him. So the high-scoring center played one more season for the Rangers and endured one more concussion, which finally convinced him to stop. LaFontaine finished with 468 goals, the second most in league history by an American. He was also one of just three Americans to notch 1,000 points.

NATIONAL PASTIME

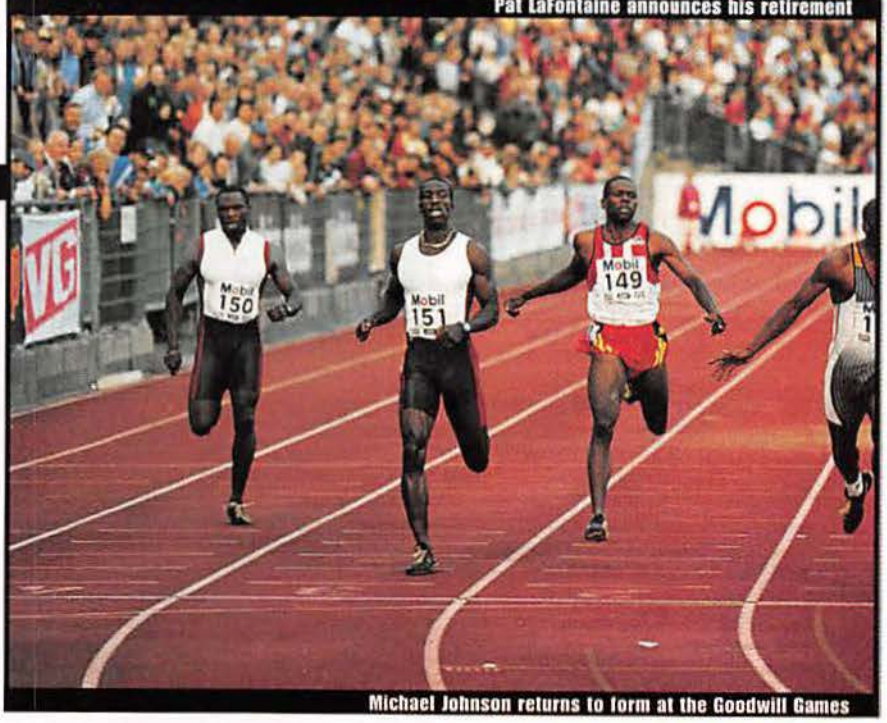
While basketball's World Championship competition was not important enough to coax America's best players into action, baseball's tournament to determine who's best barely registered in this country. The U.S. lost to the Netherlands and did not medal as Cuba, the dominant nation in international competition, romped to the title in Rome.

JOHNSON'S OLYMPIC FORM

When you've dominated your event for years, critics seem especially keen to find any evidence of weakening. At the Goodwill Games, **Michael Johnson**, the best 400-meter (and 200-meter) runner in history, showed that he was still by far the world's best long sprinter. Followers of track and field had suggested that Johnson was finally slowing down, that other racers might be able to handle him at the next Olympics and World Championships. Since winning two Olympic gold medals in Atlanta, Johnson had struggled with injuries and his technique. Just two weeks prior to the Goodwill Games, he'd lost a 400-meter race for just the second time in the 1990s. In Uniondale, N.Y., though, he overwhelmed a talented field, running 43.76, his first sub-44-second race in 15 months, and more than a half-second faster than second-place finisher **Tyree Washington**.

Pat LaFontaine announces his retirement

CHRIS GARDNER/ALLSPORT (LAFONTAINE); NICK WEHRTT/ALLSPORT (JOHNSON)



Michael Johnson returns to form at the Goodwill Games

RYPIEN'S PRIORITIES

Mark Rypien was looking forward to Atlanta's coming season. The team was on the rise and its recent history with quarterbacks suggested that the MVP of Super Bowl XXVI would enjoy significant playing time. But Rypien walked away from his $1.8 million contract to care for his family. His son Andrew had terminal brain cancer. His wife was operated on for cervical cancer. Her prognosis was good but that did not offer the sort of consolation it might otherwise have provided.

CARAY'S LEGACY

What makes announcers like **Harry Caray**? They set the stage for what we're watching or listening to. They keep us posted on the action. Yet the best of them are something just short of family. Their voices are somehow soothing, and inextricably tied to our fondest rooting memories. When Caray died in February, Chicagoans felt a profound loss. Yet a glimpse of any Cubs' home game underlined that Caray remained in spirit at Wrigley Field. In scratchy, often off-key voices, they belted out "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" as if Caray was still leading them in song. They wore oversized versions of his hard-rimmed glasses. In August they honored him with a day, as team officials promised to erect a statue of him outside the venerable stadium. And during the Cubs' one-game playoff to determine the wild card, fans floated large ballons marked with a caricature of Caray beyond the outfield wall.

MAJOR LEAGUE MISMATCH

After the national team's disappointing performance in the World Cup, U.S. soccer needed a positive experience. The U.S. All-Stars' 6-1 win over the World All-Stars in the Major League Soccer All-Star game certainly qualifies. Even defender **Alexi Lalas**, who sat on the bench for the entire World Cup, scored for the U.S. So did **Roy Lassiter**, who was left off the roster. Needless to say, All-Star Game defense is typically lax, and the World All-Stars were made up of the best foreign players in the MSL—not those who compete in the tougher European and South American leagues.

NEW HEAD BULL?

In one of the least surprising developments of the NBA's offseason, Chicago signed Iowa State coach **Tim Floyd**—although it wasn't initially clear what he'd do. His title said something about basketball operations and it was likely he'd coach. But Bulls management, even Floyd, said the coaching job belonged to **Phil Jackson**, if Jackson decided to change his mind and return. Meanwhile, **Jerry Krause**, the most unpopular man in Chicago, was clearly in charge of personnel decisions. What would Floyd do?

MARV BEGINS AGAIN

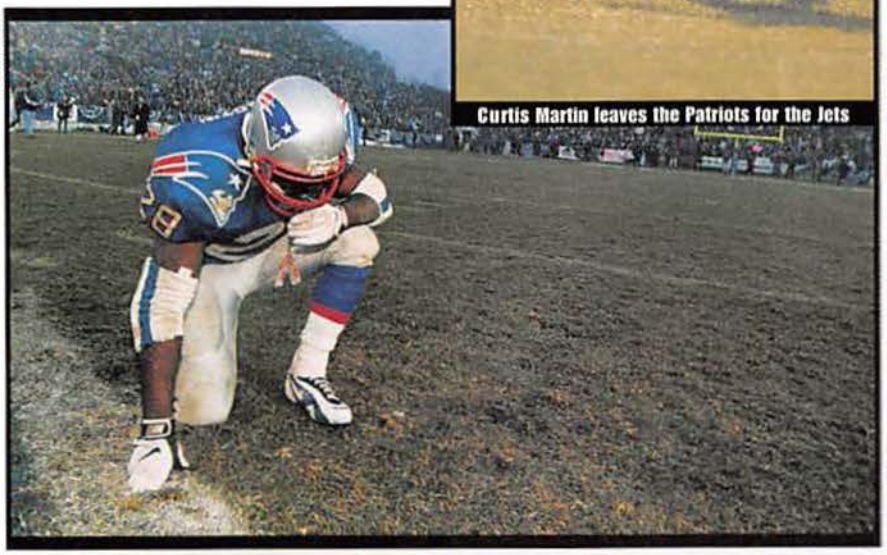
A year after he had been banished from the airwaves, **Marv Albert** was headed back to the profession he loved. Albert, whose guilty plea for sexually assaulting a woman cost him not only his job but reputation as one of the country's best announcers, was rehired by Madison Square Garden network. At his press conference, Albert appeared contrite. He apologized to his friends and family and said it was time to start a new stage in his life.

FROM PATS TO JETS

Already tense, the rivalry between the Patriots and Jets grew pricklier when New York signed New England's free agent running back **Curtis Martin**. New England elected not to match New York's six-year, $36-million offer. Martin, one of only seven players to gain 1,000 yards or more in each of his first three seasons, fit in perfectly with **Bill Parcells'** grinding, run-oriented offense. Meanwhile, New England was forced to fill a gaping hole in its attack. The teams have not liked each other since Parcells left New England before the end of his contract and moved to New York. "I want nothing less than the best for the New York Jets organization," Parcells said of his signing Martin.

Curtis Martin leaves the Patriots for the Jets

AL BELLO/ALLSPORT



CLIPPERS TAKE A CHANCE

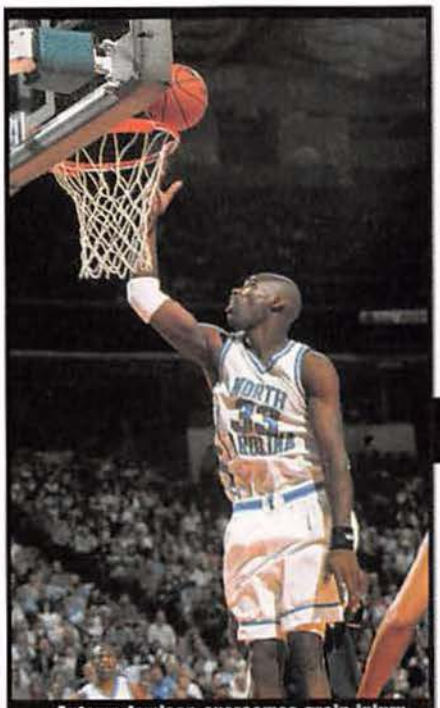
Had the Los Angeles Clippers finally made a good personnel decision? The troubled franchise chose **Michael Olowokandi** from nearby Pacific with the first pick in the draft. The 7-foot center seemed to have far more potential than **Mike Bibby**, whom they also considered. Expert opinion backed the team's choice. Bibby was a nearly finished product. Olowokandi had enormous room for improvement. He had played basketball for only a few years. But he ran the court stunningly well for a player his size, had a 7-8 wingspan, and was eager to learn.

U.S. BASKETBALL SUPREMACY

While promoters of international basketball point to the improvement of other teams, this year's Goodwill Games and World Championships underlined the gap between the U.S. and the rest of the world. The U.S. won the Goodwill Games with a group of collegians. It finished third at the World Championships with a team of collegians and minor league players that was patched together just a couple of weeks before the tournament. Could any other country have finished as well with its 30th best team? Were it not for Russia's late and unlikely flurry of 3-point shooting and some typically questionable international refereeing, the U.S. would have reached the World Championship final.

NEW JERSEY STRUGGLES IN

Since moving to New Jersey and the NBA, the Nets have languished among the league's bottom feeders. This season, the franchise enjoyed one of its rare successes, making the playoffs for the first time in four years. Not that the Nets made things easy for themselves. It somehow befit the team's history of ineptitude that they turned a seemingly sure berth with a week left in the season into an excruciating experience that ended only the final day of the season when they beat the Detroit Pistons at home 114-101.



Antawn Jamison overcomes groin injury

CRAIG JONES/ALLSPORT

EWING DOESN'T HELP

If NBA seasons were fairy tales, then **Patrick Ewing** would have returned early from a likely season-ending injury and led his team to an NBA championship—or at least to a meeting with the Chicago Bulls in the NBA Eastern Conference Final. NBA seasons offer only harsh realities. Ewing was rusty and couldn't help his team past Indiana, which stole a game from the Knicks at Madison Square Garden, and closed out their semifinal series in five games. Along the way, **Rik Smits** made Ewing look silly with head fakes and flawless jump shooting. As defiant as ever, Ewing and the Knicks insisted that Indiana was not the better team, just the team that had played better in the series.

UNPLEASANT LITTLE MAESTRO

With space age equipment the vogue and the big serve a must for the top-ranked men, **Marcelo Rios** was an unlikely pick to replace **Pete Sampras** as the world's No. 1 player. But when Rios downed **Andre Agassi** at the Lipton Championships, he did exactly that. Rios is an anomaly in the age of power tennis. He stands just 5-9 and wins more with his ball control, speed of foot and anticipation. The victory at the Lipton, perhaps the most prestigious tournament outside the Grand Slams, capped a remarkable month that saw him also take the *Newsweek* Championships. He lost just one set and beat some of the game's best servers on a hardcourt surface that favored his opponents.

BOSTON REPEATS

Moses Tanui and **Fatuma Roba** followed different paths to the same feat: a second Boston Marathon triumph. Kenya's Tanui, who'd won the world's most beloved marathon in 1996, fell far behind the leading men before rallying over the last four miles. He outkicked teammate **Joseph Chebet** and finished in 2:07:34, the third fastest time in the race's 102-year history. Ethiopia's Roba, the Olympic champion in Atlanta, posted the third fastest time—2:23:21—in the history of the women's race. Despite an injury to her right leg, she opened up a big lead over the last nine miles and finished nearly four minutes ahead of second-place finisher **Renata Paradowska** of Poland.

NORTH CAROLINA 2, DUKE 1

The long-time rivals dominated the ACC and ranked among the country's top teams this year, which made their games particularly important for position in the NCAA tournament. When North Carolina banged out a surprisingly easy 83-68 win in the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament final, it earned the top seed in the Eastern

Regional while Duke was sent to the South—albeit as that regional's No. 1 seed. In the win, **Antawn Jamison**, North Carolina's star forward, overcame a groin injury so painful he wasn't sure he'd play, to score 22 points, grab 18 rebounds and avenge a painful loss at Duke.

TYSON VOLCANO

Mike Tyson did exactly what he shouldn't have at the hearing to determine if he could fight again. Angered by repeated questions about biting **Evander Holyfield** in their heavyweight title fight last year, Tyson lost patience with the three-member New Jersey Athletic Control Board, which grants boxing licenses. Just before he was to read a closing statement, Tyson cursed and slapped the table in front of him. "Why do I got to go through this f------ all the time?" he asked. Yet strangely, Tyson insisted that he had not lost his cool; instead, he said he was "expressing his hurt." Tyson's Nevada license was revoked after he bit Holyfield on both ears and was fined $3 million. The 32-year-old fighter had needed the license to resume his career in Atlantic City.

THE CATCH

While **Ken Griffey**'s home run swing was more interesting to the throngs who followed this year's **Roger Maris** chase, it was his fielding that offered this season's most spectacular play. In early August, Griffey sprinted into the right centerfield gap, leaped nearly the height of Tiger Stadium's four-foot retaining wall and, fully outstretched, backhanded a drive that seemed headed for the seats. The late-night highlight special robbed Tigers' leftfielder **Luis Gonzalez** of two RBIs and spurred the struggling Mariners to a 6-3 win. "That's as good a catch as I've seen him make," said Mariners' manager **Lou Piniella**. "It had to be perfectly timed and he snatched it a couple of rows out."

TRINIDAD'S A HIT

Felix Trinidad has never received as much attention as **Oscar de la Hoya**, but his record was perhaps even more impressive than the photogenic, charismatic Olympic hero. In his 12th defense of his International Boxing Federation welterweight belt, Trinidad was at his most impressive, knocking out **Mahenge Zulu** in four rounds. Trinidad dominated the fight and rocked Zulu in the final round with a left hook. Then he sent the Zairian to the canvas for the first time in his career with a second hook to the chin. It was Trinidad's 33rd win without a loss and 29th KO, and it underlined his status as the only fighter who could compete on even terms with the talented de la Hoya.

AMERICAN UPSET

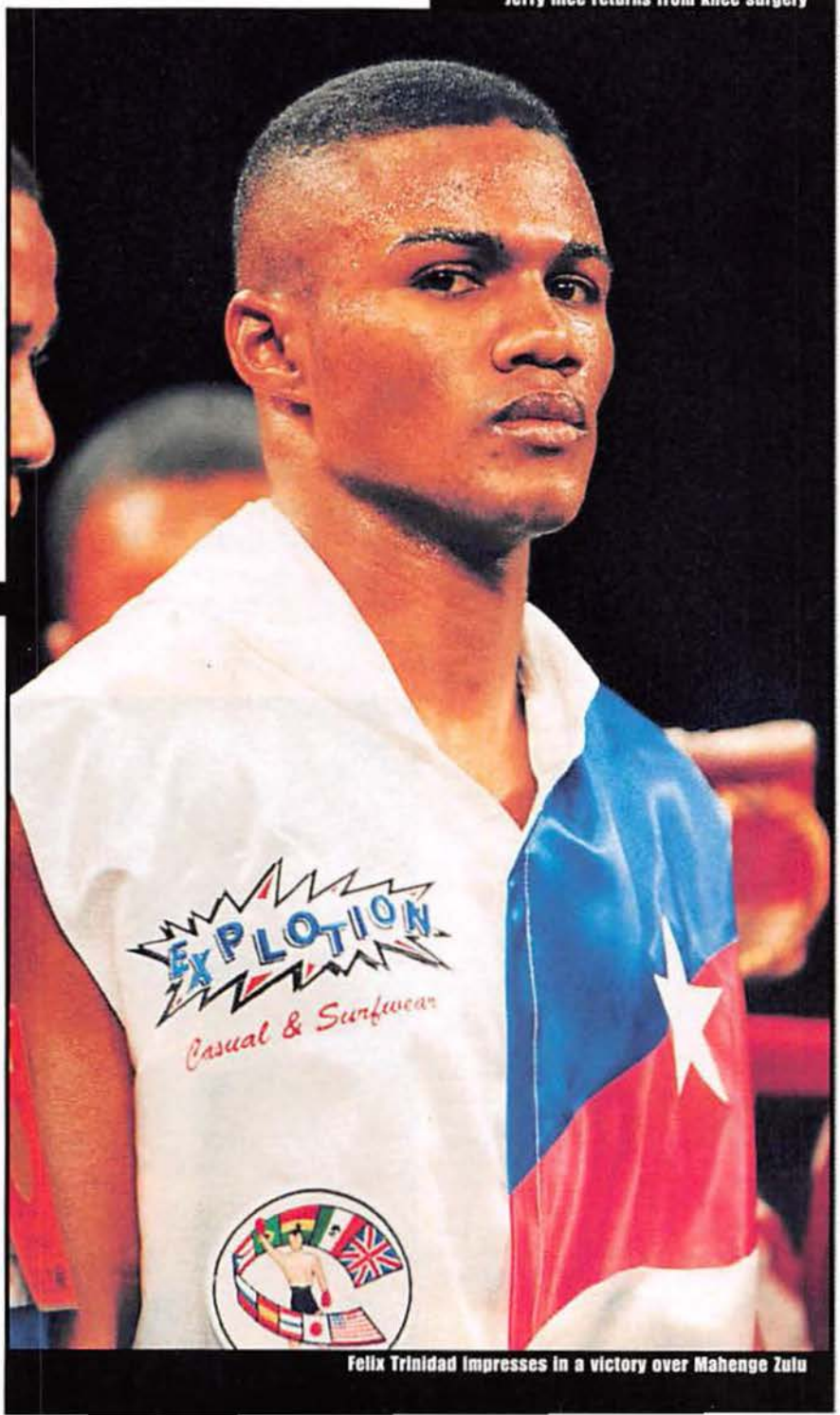
While its World Cup was disappointing, the U.S. national soccer team's year was far from a total wash-out. Five months before their first World Cup game, the Americans defeated the Yankees of international competition, Brazil. The 1-0 victory in the semifinals of the CONCACAF Gold Cup before just 12,000 fans at the same Rose Bowl where Brazil had ousted the U.S. in the previous World Cup ranked among soccer's most stunning upsets. The U.S. had never beaten Brazil and had not scored against the team that usually tops the world rankings in 68 years. But goaltender **Kasey Keller** was unbeatable, notching 10 saves—several of them acrobatic—and striker **Preki** scored a goal fit for any highlight film.

RICE BEGINS AGAIN

When **Jerry Rice** arrived at the San Francisco 49ers training camp in Stockton, Calif., he felt differently than he ever had in his brilliant career. Rice was scared. He had worked as hard as ever in the offseason. But the record-breaking wide receiver was returning from three knee surgeries in less than a year, and did not know how his repaired joint would hold up when he cut suddenly or absorbed a hard tackle. His fear also reflected the understanding that he was nearing the end of his playing days.

TODD WARSHAW/ALLSPORT

Jerry Rice returns from knee surgery



AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

Felix Trinidad impresses in a victory over Mahenge Zulu

THE NATIONAL SPORTS REVIEW

Quotes

Jackie Joyner-Kersee, sports' most beloved and talented female athlete, bid farewell to track and field competition a week after finishing first in the heptathalon at this summer's Goodwill Games. She possesses a kind of grace, a palpable dignity, and a sweet, timeless beauty.

PAT BOWLEN, Denver Broncos owner, after his team had defeated Green Bay 31-24 in the Super Bowl: "Just four words. This one's for John."

JOHN ELWAY, Denver quarterback, after winning his first Super Bowl in four tries: "You're never going to be up there with the elite quarterbacks in the game without winning the Super Bowl... No, my career would not have been complete without this."

TOM OSBORNE, Nebraska coach, after the Orange Bowl: "We did all we could. We won 13 and that's all we played. I'm very proud of these guys. It's kind of a bittersweet moment. It's a great night for Nebraska."

AKEBONO (formerly Chad Rowan), 6-foot-8, 516-pound sumo wrestler, on being clad only from the waist down in his traditional wrestling silk during the frigid opening ceremony of the Nagano Olympics: "Ten minutes of cold, a lifetime of memory."

PICABO STREET, American skier, as she waited at the bottom of the super giant slalom course and seemed likely to win an unexpected gold medal in the event: "If I win this I am a race horse."

SE RI PAK, Korean golfer, after storming to an insurmountable 9-stroke lead at the Jamie Farr Kroger Classic a week following her second major-title win at the U.S. Women's Open: "I just want my style. Not Tiger Woods' style."

SAMMY SOSA, Chicago Cubs slugger, after hitting a home run against Colorado that tied him with Mark McGwire at 54 home runs on the season: "This is the Mark McGwire show. He's going to come back like he always does."

MARK McGWIRE, Cardinals record-setting hitter, after cranking his 55th home run of the season and being asked if he thought he'd have so many home runs by the end of August: "Not a chance. But I do and I'll give it a shot (to break Roger Maris' record). I hope I'll get some balls to drive."

PETE SAMPRAS, tennis star, after a grueling five-set win that gave him his fifth Wimbledon and 11th major title: "Compared to all the finals, this by far was the toughest. I didn't think I was quite in control of the match."

JERRY KRAUSE, Chicago Bulls general manager, on Michael Jordan's insistence that he would not return if Phil Jackson was not the coach: "If Michael chooses to leave because there is another coach here, then it is his choice and not ours."

PHIL JACKSON, Chicago Bulls coach, after Reggie Miller pushes Michael Jordan out of the way and hits a game-winning 3-point shot to even their Eastern Conference playoff series: "Our players felt like it was Munich '72."

EUGENE ROBINSON, Green Bay Packers safety, after his team had vanquished the San Francisco 49ers for the NFC championship: "If this was the Super Bowl as some people suggested, then why do we have to do this again in two weeks, and where's my ring now?"

MANNY ALVAREZ, Texas state District Judge, explaining to the Associated Press how Dallas Cowboy lineman Everett McIver received a stab wound after tussling with teammate Michael Irvin: "Everyone was kind of laughing that Irvin got in front of McIver (in a line for haircuts). One of his buddies said, 'You're a lineman and you're going to let a tiny wide receiver get in front of you?' McIver kind of put a bear hug on him—that's how it started. They started wrestling."

BOBBY VALENTINE, New York Mets manager, after learning that his players believed that opposing teams had extra incentive to beat them because they don't like the manager: "Oh, so now it's my fault?"

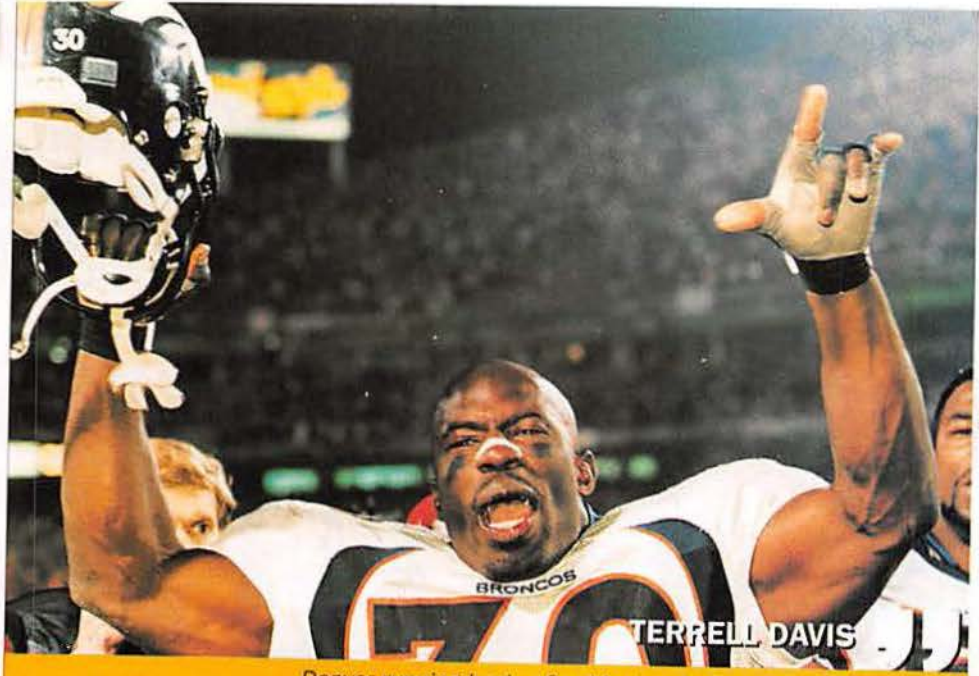
STEVE SAMPSON, former U.S. national soccer coach, on his team's disappointing results: "Americans like winners. They don't like anything less than that."

TAB RAMOS, U.S. national soccer team midfielder, commenting on coach Steve Sampson and the disappointing World Cup: "From the beginning, this whole World Cup has been a mess. I blame the coaches for the losses. I have no problem saying that."

MIKE SHANNON, St. Louis announcer and former Cardinal third baseman, on Mark McGwire becoming the first player in major league history to hit 50 or more home runs in three consecutive seasons: "He breaks the record right here in New York where Babe Ruth played. It's the greatest thing I've ever seen."

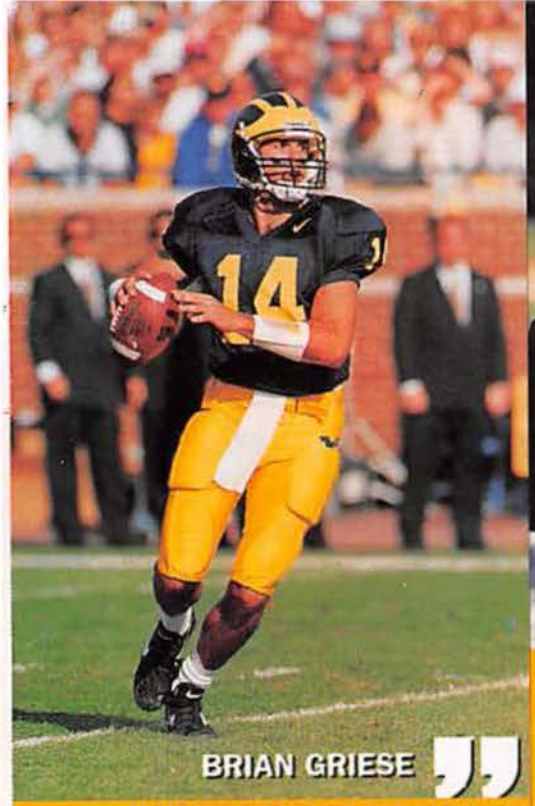
TIM YOUNG, Stanford center, after his team had fallen to Kentucky despite leading for most of the game: "I thought everything was working our way."

VENUS WILLIAMS, American tennis prodigy, after winning the Lipton Champ-



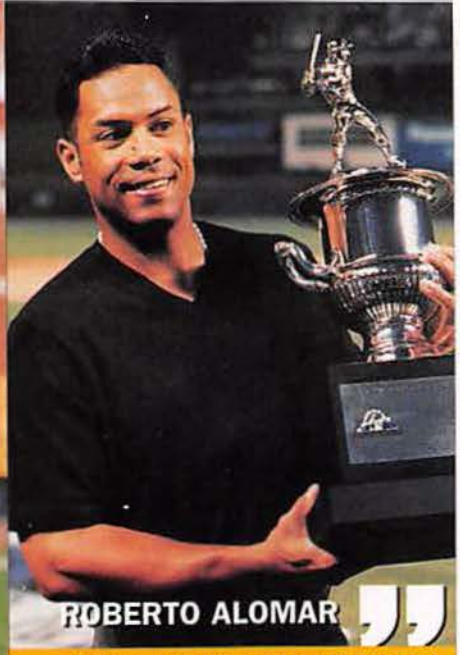
Denver running back, after his team's Super Bowl win:
"I watched the Super Bowl game that was played here in San Diego from my home and never dreamed this would be happening to me 10 years later. I'm numb right now; I have no idea that this is even going on right now."

San Francisco quarterback, after his team's loss to Green Bay in the NFC championship game:
"It was just a train wreck."



BRIAN GRIESE

Michigan quarterback, after his team defeated Washington State in the Rose Bowl: **"I have no doubt that we should be the national champion. We played the toughest schedule in the country by far. To come to the Rose Bowl and play a very tough Washington State team... I ask you: Is there anything else you want us to do?"**



ROBERTO ALOMAR

Baltimore Orioles second baseman, after winning the MVP of the All-Star Game a year after his older brother Sandy had accomplished the same feat: **"This was very special for my family. After Sandy won it last year when our grandmother died, this is just very special."**

SCOTT FROST

Nebraska quarterback, after his team routed Tennessee in the Orange Bowl and staked a claim to the national championship: **"I don't think there's anybody out there with a clear conscience who can say that Nebraska and that great man Tom Osborne doesn't deserve a national championship for this—at least a share."**

ionships: "It's like the fifth biggest tournament, so I'm pretty happy about that. I was able to feel what it was like to win, and I think that will really help me, especially this year."

ANNA KOURNIKOVA, sexy Russian tennis prodigy/brat, after losing to Venus Williams in the final of the Lipton Championships: "It's good that she didn't really beat me, because I made all the mistakes, right?... She didn't beat me. I lost."

JIM LEYLAND, National League manager, after his team and the American League combine to set an All-Star Game record for runs in the thin air of Denver's Coors Field: "I think it was, in some ways, a Coors Field type of game."

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED on Magic Johnson's one-hour talk show *The Magic Hour*: "...it's historically bad."

JEFF KING after struggling through a blizzard to win the 1,100-mile Iditarod sled-dog race: "I don't feel very rugged now."

MARCELO RIOS, after becoming the first Chilean to become the world's No. 1 tennis player: "First of all, being the best player in the world for Chile is not normal. We have never had a champion be No. 1 in the world in tennis. I don't know if we have had it in other sports, but I don't think so."

MARV ALBERT, television and radio announcer, revealing that he would return to the profession he had left for a year following his admission that he had assaulted a woman: "What I did was wrong. I hurt many people, including my fiancee, my family, my friends and my employers. For that, I am sorry."

LEON BARMORE, Louisiana Tech women's basketball coach, after his team had been routed in the final of the NCAA tournament: "That's the greatest women's basketball team I've ever seen."

ERNIE GRUNFELD, New York Knicks general manager, after his team and the Miami Heat receive suspensions and fines for the second consecutive year because of a brawl: "It was déjà vu, unfortunately."

JEFF VAN GUNDY, Knicks coach, on his role during the fight: "I'm not an idiot. I wasn't trying to attack anyone."

PAT RILEY, Miami Heat coach, on the tenor of the playoff series between the Heat and Knicks: "I asked the league what they thought, their impressions of the series thus far. They thought it was nothing out of the norm. There was a lot of talk, a couple of slit throats (gestures), but nothing out of the ordinary."

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI, Duke basketball coach, responding to suggestions that he should not have been without timeouts for the final 5:21 of his team's loss in the Southern Regional to Kentucky: "I don't fault our guys for calling the timeouts. Those timeouts kept us in the game."

BILLY GUTHRIDGE, North Carolina's 60-something basketball coach, after hearing that his guard Vince Carter had not performed a 360-degree dunk the right way: "I've shown Vince a lot of films of when I played. I did it the right way."

JOHN DALY, professional golfer, after hitting five 3-woods on his way to an 18 on the 543-yard, par-5 sixth hole at the Bay Hill Invitational: "I got a hell of a lot of practice with my three wood."

TUBBY SMITH, Kentucky basketball coach, after winning the national championship: "This program is more than just a basketball program. It's really a way of life, and people do live and breathe Kentucky basketball. I'm happy to be a small part of it."

RICK MAJERUS, University of Utah basketball coach, after his team had upset Arizona and advanced to the Final Four: "I'm so overwhelmed. These guys played so hard."

MAJERUS after losing to Kentucky in the NCAA final: "We take our hats off to Kentucky. They whupped us and they're No. 1. I think our kids are 1-A."

STEVE GOODRICH, Princeton forward, after his team's brilliant season comes crashing to an end against Michigan State: "When you win, you're happy. When you lose, you can't even talk. To know we're not going to get to play together anymore is just a horrible feeling."

KARL MALONE, Utah Jazz All-Star forward, in promising to travel with a gun after receiving a death threat during a road trip: "From now on, I'll be packing."

CURT SCHILLING, Philadelphia Phillies pitcher, in announcing that he was giving up chewing tobacco after a lesion was removed from his mouth: "The sad thing about it is I had to wait until I had no

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choice. I would like to think I know what it's like to be addicted to drugs. I made the choice to dip, but I didn't choose the addiction."

CASEY MARTIN, professional golfer, as he testified during his lawsuit to be granted the right to use a cart during PGA events (Martin suffers from a circulatory condition that prevents him from walking without pain): "If I could trade my let and a cart for their good leg, I would do it any time, anywhere."

MARTIN, carding a 69 in his first tournament after winning a court decision that permitted him to use a cart: "I'd like to be known as a good golfer and a good person. But right now, I'm gonna be looked on as the guy in the cart. So be it."

DARRYL SELBEL, spokesperson for USA Hockey, after an announcement that 23 players from the U.S. Olympic hockey team would receive letters asking them to reveal who had vandalized their rooms at the Nagano Games: "We will appeal to their better judgment and hope they would be a bit more forthcoming. We are an organization with more than 500,000 members, many of whom are youngsters who look up to these players."

PETER GAMMONS, ESPN commentator, on the death of beloved *Los Angeles Times* columnist Jim Murray: "Calling him a sports writer was a little demeaning to him. He was a genius of the written word."

JAY LENO, comedian, after a chunk of Yankee Stadium fell into the stands: "Big promotion for all you baseball fans. Tomorrow night at Yankee Stadium, helmet night."

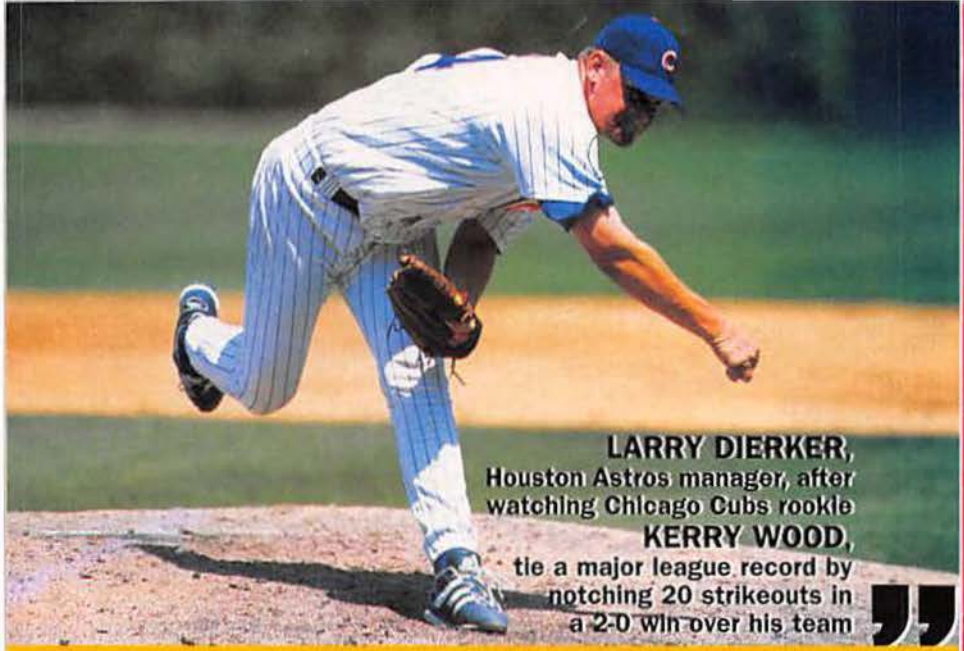
MIKE TYSON, former heavyweight champion, at a hearing to determine if he should be granted a boxing license: "You know what I mean, man? Why do I got to go through this f- all the time?"

TYSON, in denying that he had lost his temper at the hearing: "I never lost my cool. I was just expressing my hurt."

MOSES TANUI, Kenya distance racer, after coming from nearly a minute behind to win his second Boston Marathon in the third fastest time in the race's 102-year history: "I was confident I could catch the leaders because they were running too fast. I caught them and I still had energy."

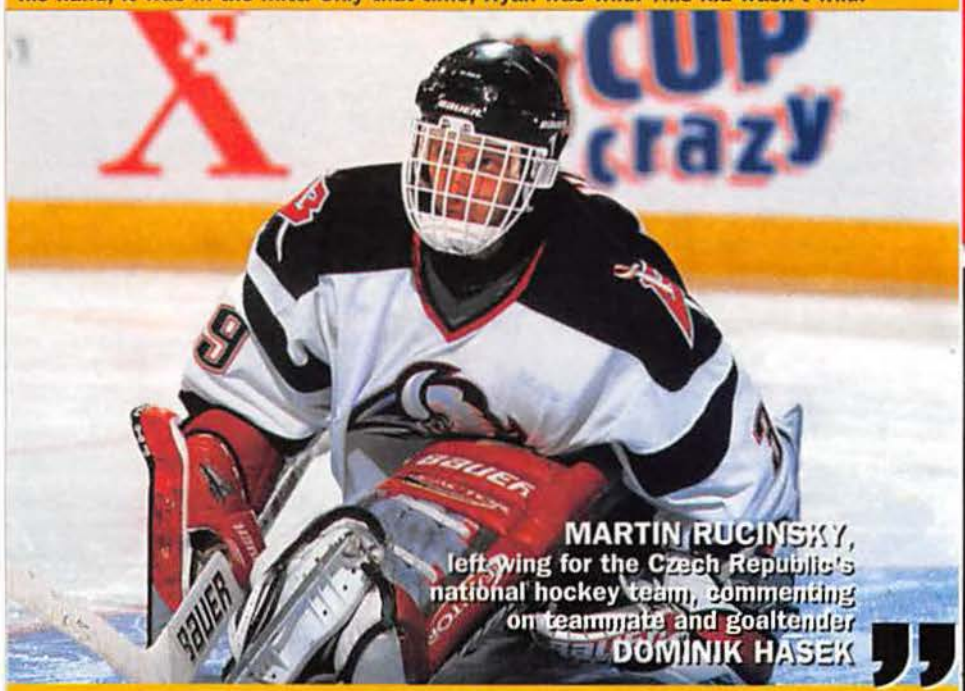
CHRIS MILLS, New York Knicks reserve, after coach Jeff Van Gundy tried to break up a playoff fight between Alonzo Mourning and Larry Johnson and wound up being dragged across the floor at Madison Square Garden: "He looked like a jockey who fell off a horse and didn't know to stop holding on."

MICHAEL JORDAN, on the imminent signing of Iowa State's Tim Floyd to coach the Chicago Bulls: "I don't know Tim Floyd and I don't have anything against Tim Floyd. He doesn't know me and he doesn't know the way I play and I don't know the way he coaches. Hiring him is like starting over again. They may want to do that, but I don't."



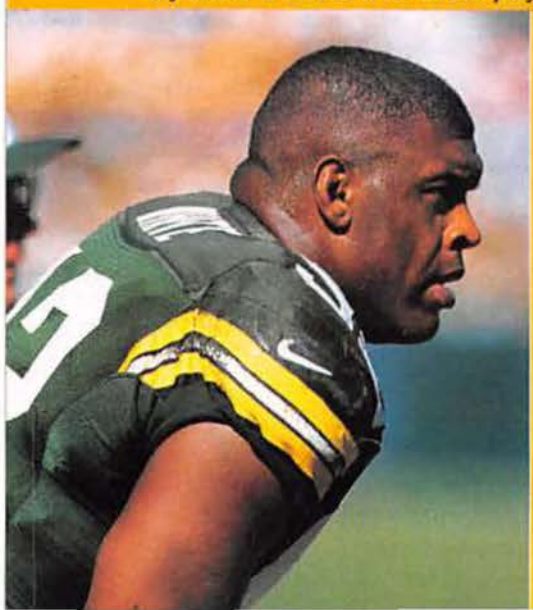
LARRY DIERKER, Houston Astros manager, after watching Chicago Cubs rookie **KERRY WOOD**, tie a major league record by notching 20 strikeouts in a 2-0 win over his team

"He reminded me of the first time I saw (Nolan) Ryan. By the time the ball left his hand, it was in the mitt. Only that time, Ryan was wild. This kid wasn't wild."



MARTIN RUCINSKY, left wing for the Czech Republic's national hockey team, commenting on teammate and goaltender **DOMINIK HASEK**

"Dominik Hasek is the best goaltender in the NHL right now. We play just average defense and he's going to stop the puck. I'm glad he's on my team. It sure is a lot better playing with him than against him."

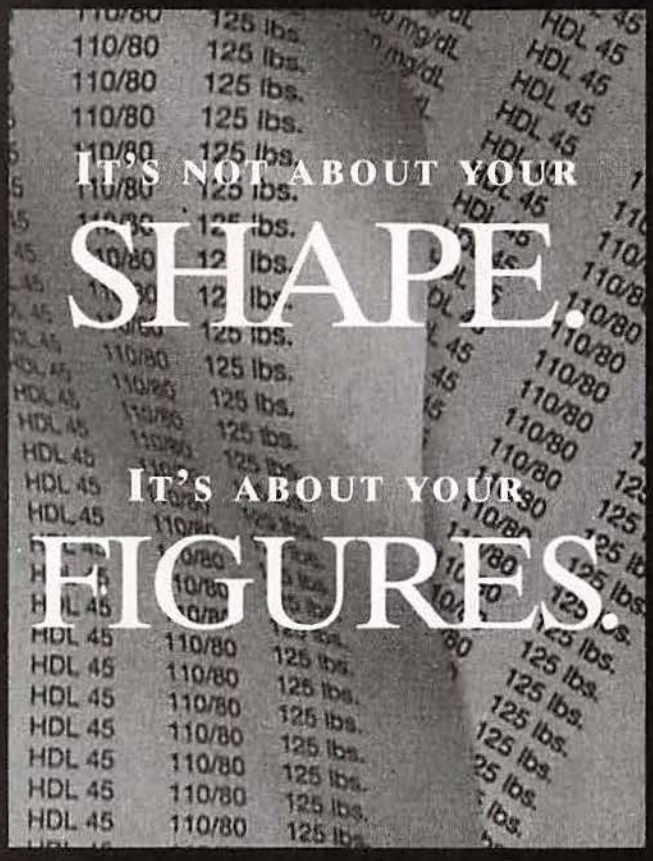


REGGIE WHITE

Green Bay Packers defensive lineman, on why he did not retire:

"I knew it was the right thing when my kids were excited."

PHOTO CREDITS: JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT (WOOD, WHITE); CRAIG MELVIN/ALLSPORT (HASEK)



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MICHAEL JOHNSON, American long sprinter and Olympic gold medalist, after winning the 400-meter race at the Goodwill Games: "The time tells me I'm running well and I'm back to where I was."

BOBBY JULICH, American cyclist and third-place finisher at the Tour de France, on the exciting but troubled race and its similarity to the final day's changing weather: "Good, not so good, finally very good."

RANDY JOHNSON, after his first start—a 6-2 win over Pittsburgh—for the Houston Astros: "I knew there was a lot of anticipation, and I wanted to give a good effort."

ANDREW CRAIG, Chief Executive Officer of CART, after a tire and debris from an accident during the U.S. 500 struck and killed three spectators: "I can only express the deep sorrow felt by everyone within the CART community. There is, of course, nothing that we can say or do that in any way will reduce the deep sadness felt by the families."

JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE, one of the greatest athletes in track and field history, after her last meet: "I hate for it to be over, but I knew that it couldn't go on forever. It's pretty emotional for me."

JACK NICKLAUS, golfing great, in announcing that he would retire from the sport in the year 2000: "We've all got to stop sometime, and I don't think it's any big deal."

NEW YORK *DAILY NEWS* headline prior to the New York Knicks-Indiana Pacers playoff series: "Knicks versus Hicks."

SERGEI FEDOROV, Detroit Red Wings star, after his team won its second consecutive Stanley Cup: "It would be tough to imagine that things would turn out this way."

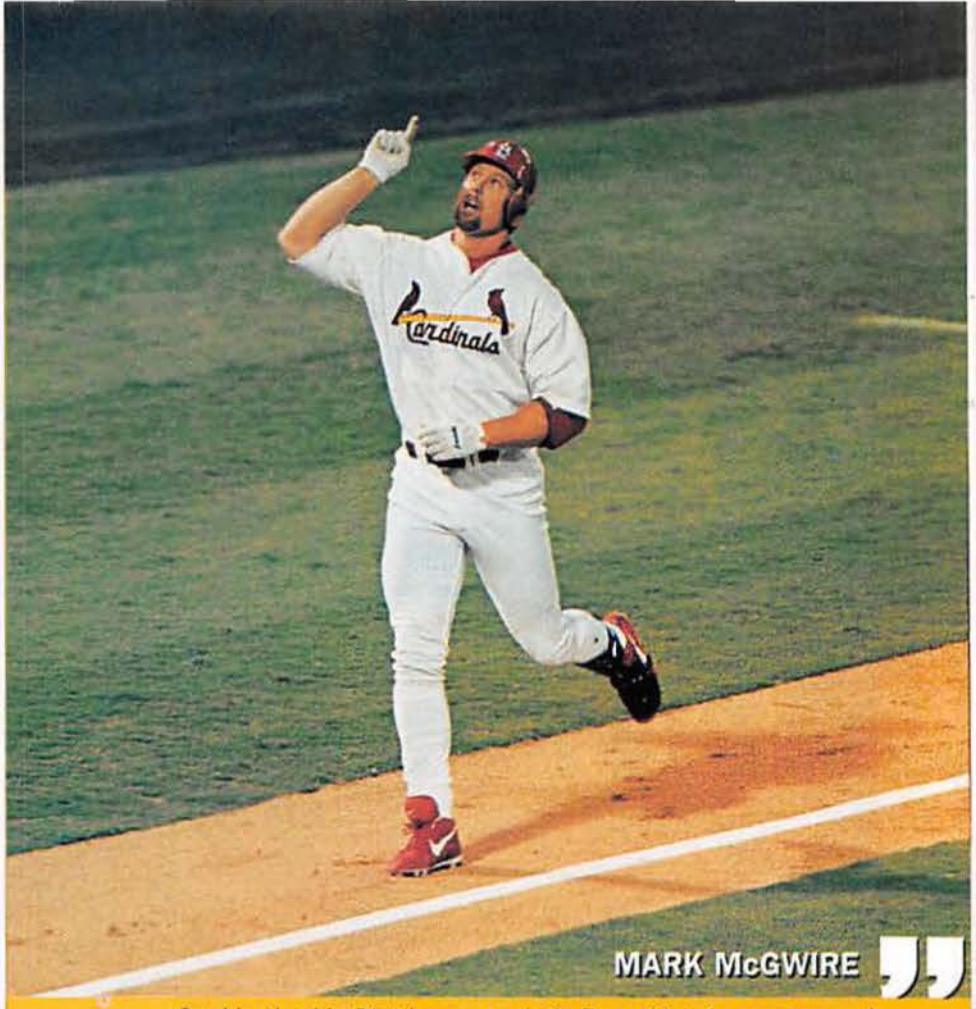
CHARLES ROSSOTTI, IRS Commissioner, on the day of Mark McGwire's record-setting 62nd home run of the season, after the possibility of a hefty gift tax charged to whoever caught the record shot was raised: "Sometimes pieces of the tax code can be as hard to understand as the infield fly rule... All I know is that the fan who gives back the home run ball deserves a round of applause, not a big tax bill."

JERRY SLOAN, Utah Jazz coach, after Jordan hits the game-winning shot in the sixth and final game of the NBA championship series: "He's (Jordan's) a guy, you can throw all your philosophies out the window. You can double him, push him to the middle, but great players make those kind of plays."

DAVID STERN, NBA commissioner, in handing the Chicago Bulls the championship trophy: "A team for the ages."

STERN, in handing Michael Jordan the playoffs MVP trophy: "You grace us with your presence."

GEORGE STEINBRENNER, owner of the New York Yankees, after his team and the Baltimore Orioles engage in a bench-

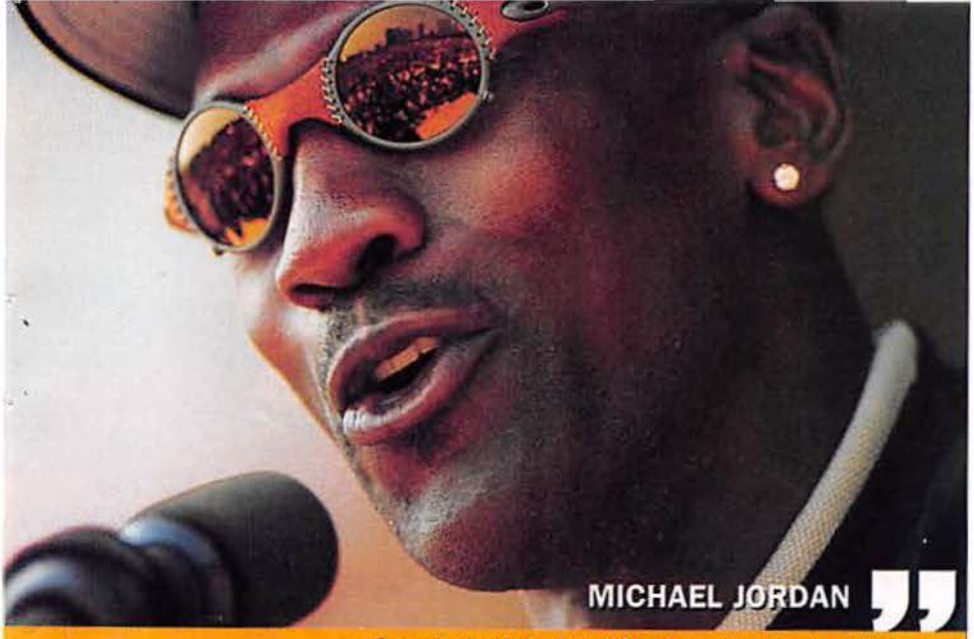


MARK McGWIRE

after blasting his 61st home run to tie Roger Maris' season record:
"Roger's in my heart. I know he's with me."

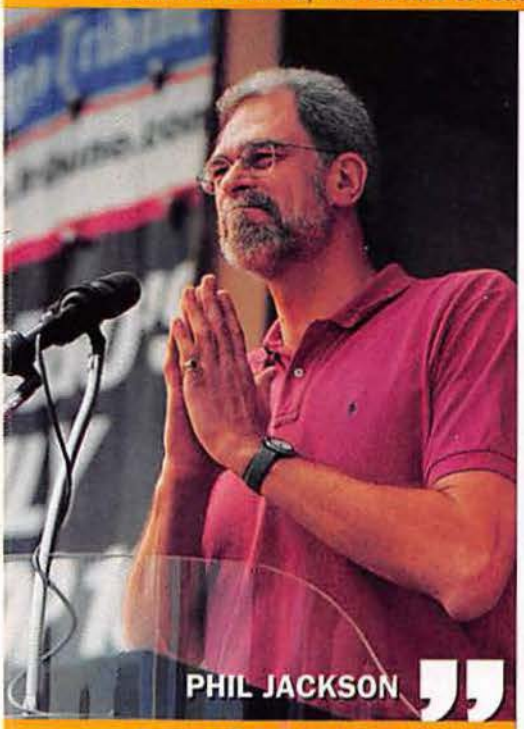
MARK McGWIRE

after hitting his 62nd home run to set a major league record:
"The St. Louis arch is off my back. The chase has put baseball back on the map."



MICHAEL JORDAN

after winning his sixth NBA championship in eight years:
"Hopefully, I've put enough memories out there for everybody to at least have some thoughts about what Michael Jordan did in his last 13 or 14 years, or whatever it takes, and for kids to follow and compare themselves and reach."



PHIL JACKSON

Chicago Bulls coach, minutes after his team wins its sixth NBA championship in eight years: **"What a finish!"**

clearing brawl instigated by the Orioles: "If you can't win ballgames, you've got to win fights... He (American League president Gene Budig) may want Peter Angeles (the Orioles owner) to go three rounds and settle the dispute... I'm working out three days a week."

STEVE SAMPSON, coach of the U.S. national soccer team, in selecting his 22-man roster: "I think the team has a very good possibility of getting to the second round. I wouldn't put it beyond this team to get to the third round."

SAMPSON, following his team's opening 2-0 loss to Germany: "I think we've closed the gap between us and the Germans significantly."

ALONZO MOURNING, thin-skinned Miami Heat center and favorite target for Dennis Rodman, "I don't want to answer questions about Dennis. Please stop asking me about that fool."

ART HOWE, Oakland A's manager, after Cal Ripken had extended his streak of consecutive games to 2,500: "I guess you can say that he's in a league all by himself. I don't see it happening again, not in any of our lifetimes."

MICHAEL JORDAN, icon, after his Chicago Bulls absorbed a 112-87 mid-season pounding by the Los Angeles Lakers: "I think they may be confident, certainly, but playoffs are a different situation. You got to beat a team more than once, on one Sunday afternoon."

DON SUTTON, former Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher, upon being named to the Baseball Hall of Fame: "I had tears and goosebumps when I found out, but I didn't have the anticipation for it."

LARRY BIRD, Indiana Pacers coach and former Boston Celtics' star: "For me, emotionally, playing against the Boston Celtics doesn't mean a lot. Playing for the Celtics meant a lot."

VENUS WILLIAMS, tennis star, after her first tournament victory as a pro: "This one I will probably always remember. I can say it all started back in Oklahoma City."

CASEY MARTIN, pro golfer on the unlikely assemblage of reporters at his first tournament following a court verdict granting him the right to use a cart at PGA events: "It's a zoo."

LARRY DOBY, the first African-American to play in the American League, on his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame: "You look back 51 years ago and you never thought this type of situation would come about... It's a feeling of a certain amount of relief. It's a great feeling."

BRETT FAVRE, Green Bay quarterback, discussing his rivalry with and the stellar play of Tampa Bay lineman Warren Sapp during the teams' playoff game: "I told him, 'Man, I think you broke my nose,' and he said, 'Oh, I wouldn't do that.'"

JEFF GORDON, NASCAR's most successful driver, speaking to *The New York Times* about the irrational fan antipathy toward him: "Nobody is going to help the guy who has the best shot at winning. They are going to do everything they can to make sure they keep him from winning."

HOMER DREW, Valparaiso basketball coach, after his son had sunk a game-winning 3-point shot to give his team an upset win over Mississippi in the NCAA tournament's most exciting first-round game: "It truly was a miracle shot."

FLIP SAUNDERS, Minnesota Timberwolves coach, after his team was routed 114-80 by Seattle: "We wouldn't be a tough matchup in March Madness if we played like we did today."

PHIL JACKSON, Chicago Bulls coach, on the dreadful Denver Nuggets: "I know it's been hard, but Denver can still suck on their Super Bowl."

RON WILSON, U.S. men's hockey coach, on his team's trashed-room episode at the Nagano Olympics: "We may as well bring in Kenneth Starr on this... Every day it's a new thing, and I'm sick of hearing about it. It's just like reading the front page of *The Washington Post*."

JOHANN OLAV KLOSS, Norway's retired speedskater, on seeing his records broken at the Olympics: "I think you can put me in a museum or something."

CHARLES OAKLEY, New York Knicks forward, on his rugged style of play: "I'm just a man who wears a hard-hat to work each day and hopes no steel falls on my head."

OAKLEY, on the forthcoming New York Knicks-Miami Heat series: "It's just like a fight—you get a rematch."

OAKLEY, on his team's inability to match San Antonio's front line of three seven-footers: "They had three Porsches, and we had three Probes."

CLEM HASKINS, University of Minnesota coach, on the lack of calls going his team's way: "I guess I'm going to have to undress on the sideline on national TV. I guess I've got to get some technical fouls."

JOSE CANSECO, Toronto Blue Jays slugger, after being asked if he was still going to take androstenedione, a performance-enhancing substance that is illegal in Canada: "Oh yeah, I'll still take it. It's ridiculous. It's a supplement, guys. It's a joke."

MARK McGWIRE, on occasionally losing patience with all the media attention:

QUOTES

PHOTO CREDITS: ELSA HASCH/ALLSPORT (JAN.); VINCENT LAFORET/ALLSPORT (JAN.); MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT (JORDAN, JACKSON)

"Does everybody get up 365 days a year and feel great, especially when they know they have to talk to the media every day?"

SAMMY SOSA, Chicago Cubs rightfielder, on watching McGwire move ahead of him in their home run duel: "I have to take off my hat and hand it to him."

DAN MAJERLE, Miami Heat guard, on riding an exercise bike to stay in shape while giving his sore back time to heal: "I could win the Tour de France right now."

SAM CASSELL, New Jersey Nets guard, on his team's struggle to make the playoffs: "Damn the eighth spot. We're trying to get to seventh, maybe even sixth. I missed the playoffs last year. There's no reason for us to miss this year."

ADAM KEEFE, Utah forward, after Karl Malone torched Golden State for 56 points: "There aren't many teams in the NBA where the starting forwards can combine for 60 points."

BRUCE COSLET, Cincinnati Bengals coach, on his team's defense-oriented draft: "At some point, at some time, we've got to stop somebody."

STEVE DEBERG, Atlanta Falcons 44-year-old quarterback, on the difference in age between him and San Francisco's Steve Young, who is eight years younger: "I'm definitely not Steve Young. I'm Steve Old."

JACK McKEON, Cincinnati Reds manager, on why he attends church so often: "With the way my team plays, I have to go to church every day."

CHUCK DALY, Orlando Magic coach, on the expected break-up of the Chicago Bulls: "Let's break them up. I go along with Jerry Krause's theory. It would be good for the league."

OREL HERSHISER, San Francisco Giants pitcher, on the surprisingly warm ovation he received from his new team's fans: "Every human being hopes to be cheered. Unless you're a bad guy in WCW wrestling."

DENNY NEAGLE, Atlanta Braves pitcher, on facing the gutted Florida Marlins: "I'm not trying to make a joke about it, but when I looked at the lineup card, I almost laughed."

MARK GRACE, Chicago Cubs first baseman, humorously, on Harry Caray's widow Dutchie singing during the seventh inning stretch: "She sang it almost as bad as Harry."

MICHAEL JORDAN, Bulls great, after winning the NBA championship: "I have another life and I know I have to get to it at some point in time. And hopefully, the fans and the people understand that."

LINDSAY DAVENPORT, after pounding fifth-seeded Venus Williams to advance to the finals of the U.S. Open: "I was never a prodigy, I was never going to be any good... I think I've proven a lot of people wrong."

PHOTO CREDIT: JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT

J.T. SNOW,
San Francisco Giants first baseman, on hitting against Atlanta's
GREG MADDUX

"The ball seems like it's there, and then you swing at it and it's not there."

BUCK WILLIAMS, former NBA Players Association President, talking about the league-imposed lockout: "They're about as far apart as the Grand Canyon right now."

ROY JONES JR., WBC light heavyweight champion: "Most of the guys I'm fighting, I really don't want to be in the ring with them. I'd rather just take 'em behind one of the buildings around here somewhere and take care of 'em."

CHUCK KNOBLAUCH, Yankees second baseman—who let the winning run score in game two of the ALCS as he argued with an umpire while the ball was in play—finally admits his error in judgment: "I screwed up. I screwed up the play, and I feel terrible about that... If I never play another game, this is what I'll be remembered for. But hopefully, we can wipe that out."

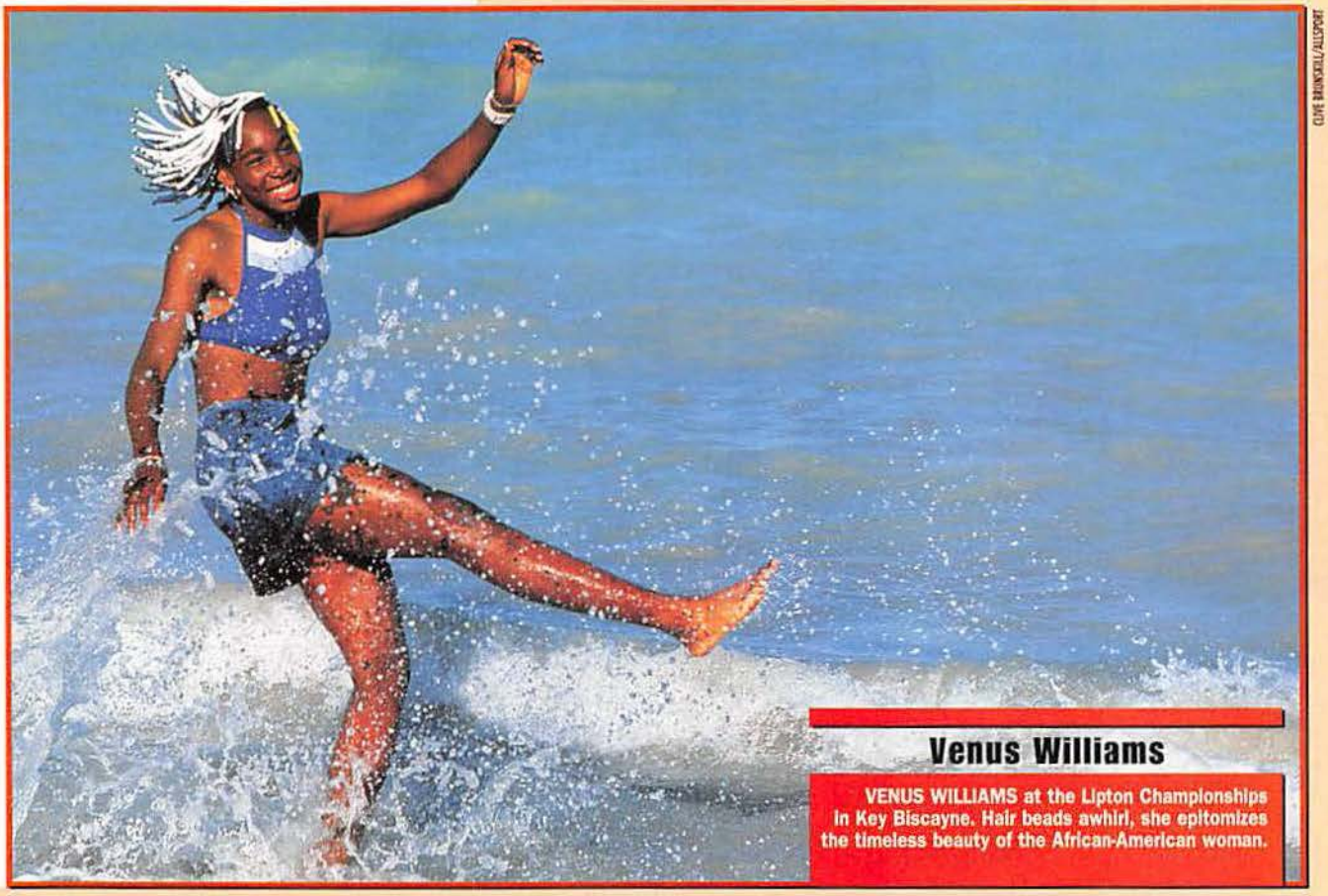
DAVID CONE, Yankees pitcher, commenting on the Knoblauch affair: "People are going to remember that play for a long time, depending on what the outcome of the series is. If it so happens that if we lose the series and that play is looked to as a defining moment, he'll have to live with it."

THE NATIONAL SPORTS REVIEW

Divas

GARY M. PRIOR/ALLSPORT

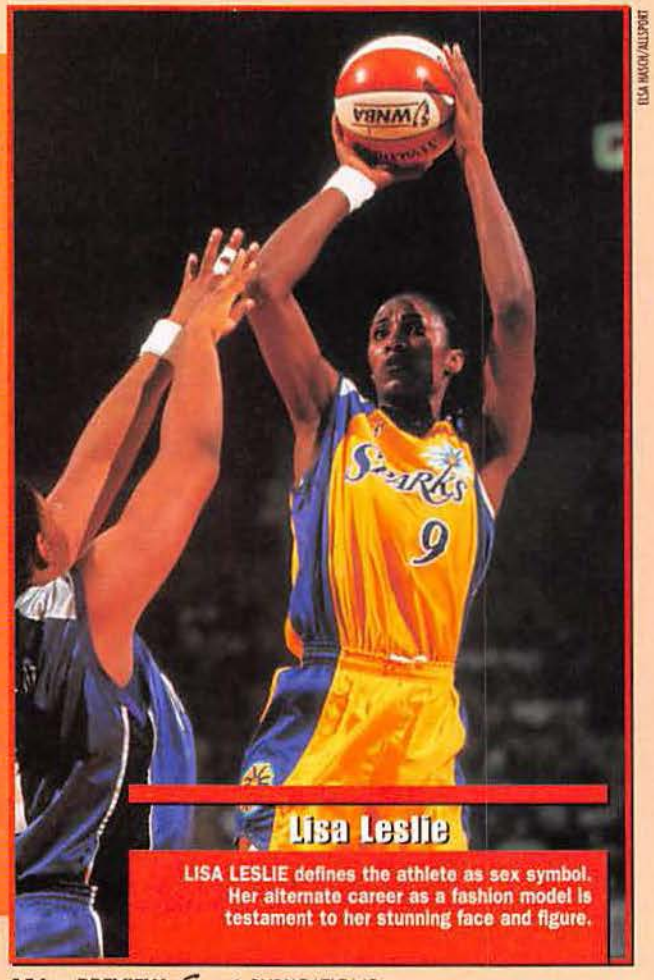
Anna Kournikova. Wow. Is there any more beautiful woman in sports?



CLIVE BRUNSKILL/ALLSPORT

Venus Williams

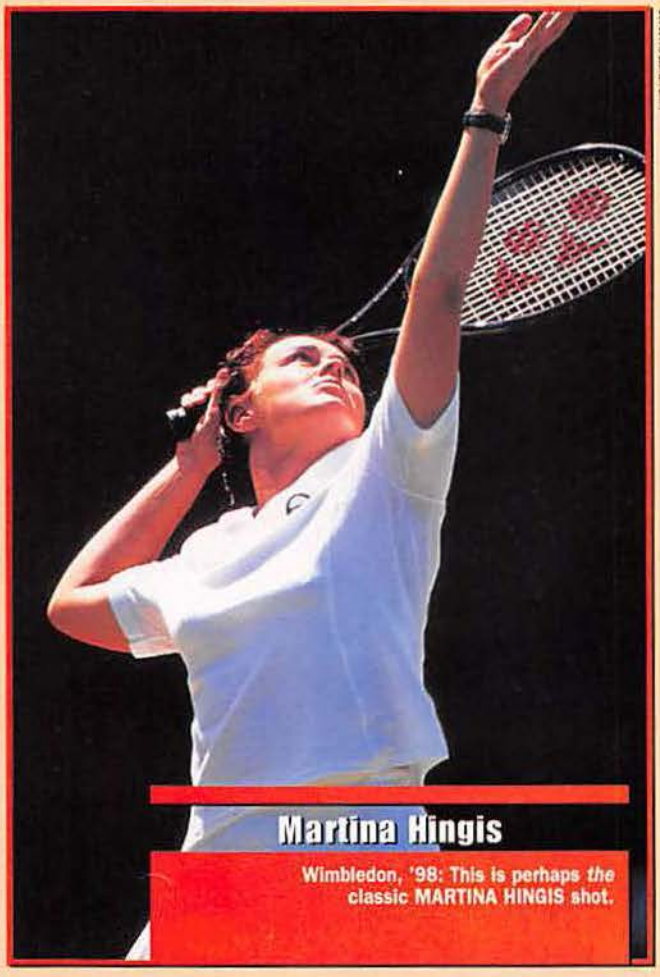
VENUS WILLIAMS at the Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne. Hair beads awhirl, she epitomizes the timeless beauty of the African-American woman.



ELSA HASCH/ALLSPORT

Lisa Leslie

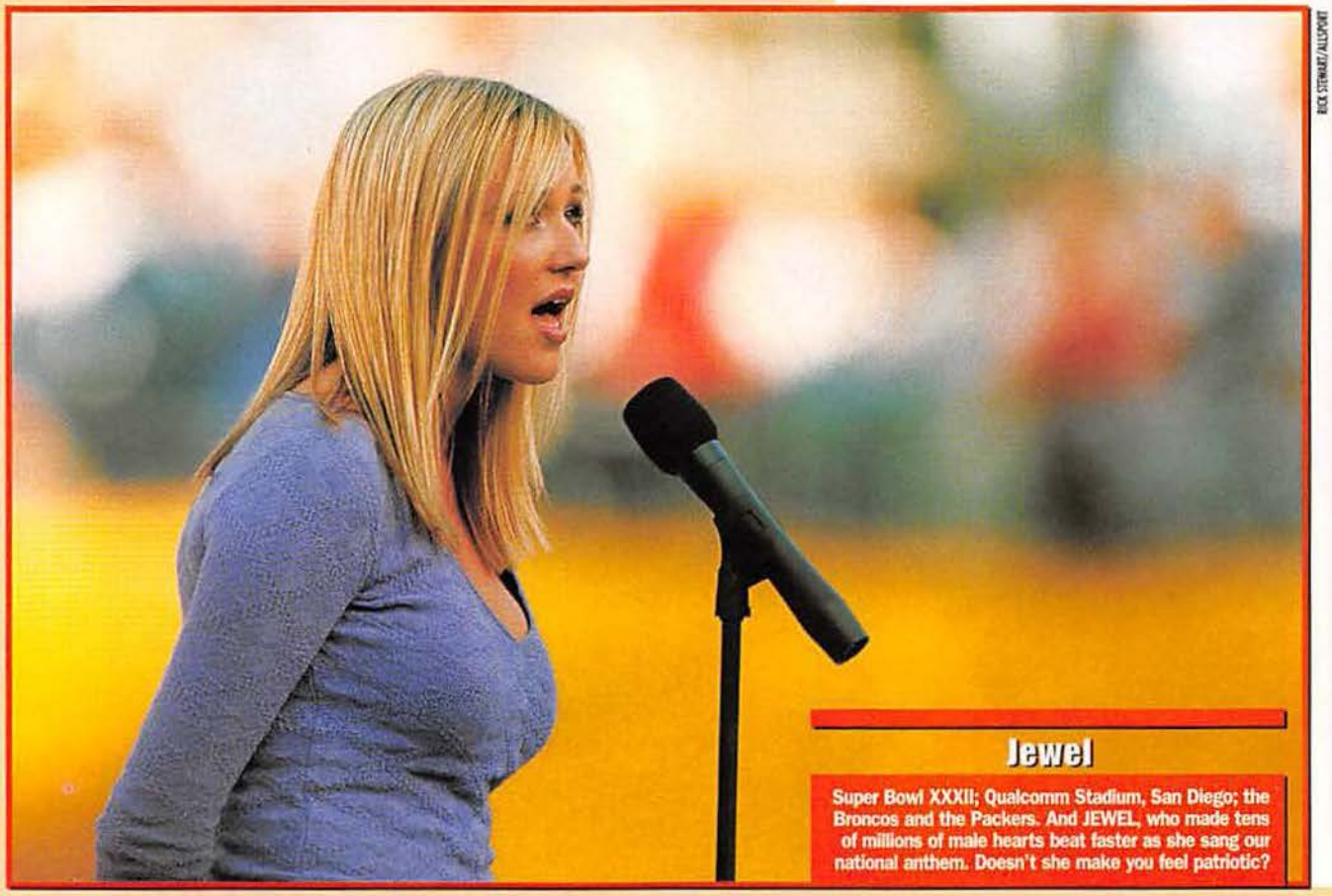
LISA LESLIE defines the athlete as sex symbol. Her alternate career as a fashion model is testament to her stunning face and figure.



MIKE HEWITT/ALLSPORT

Martina Hingis

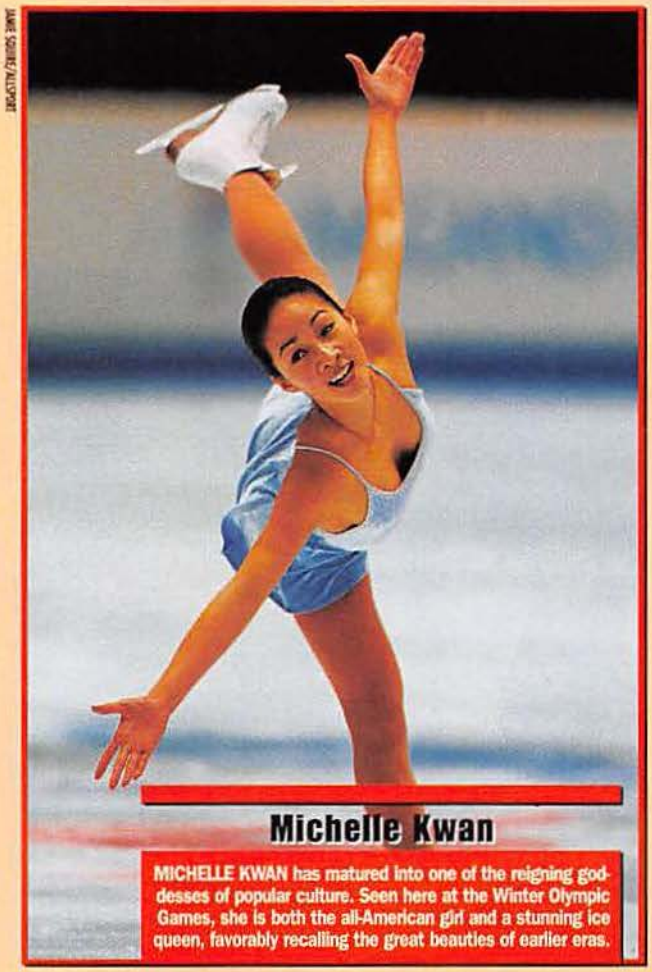
Wimbledon, '98: This is perhaps *the* classic MARTINA HINGIS shot.



RICK STEWART/ALLSPORT

Jewel

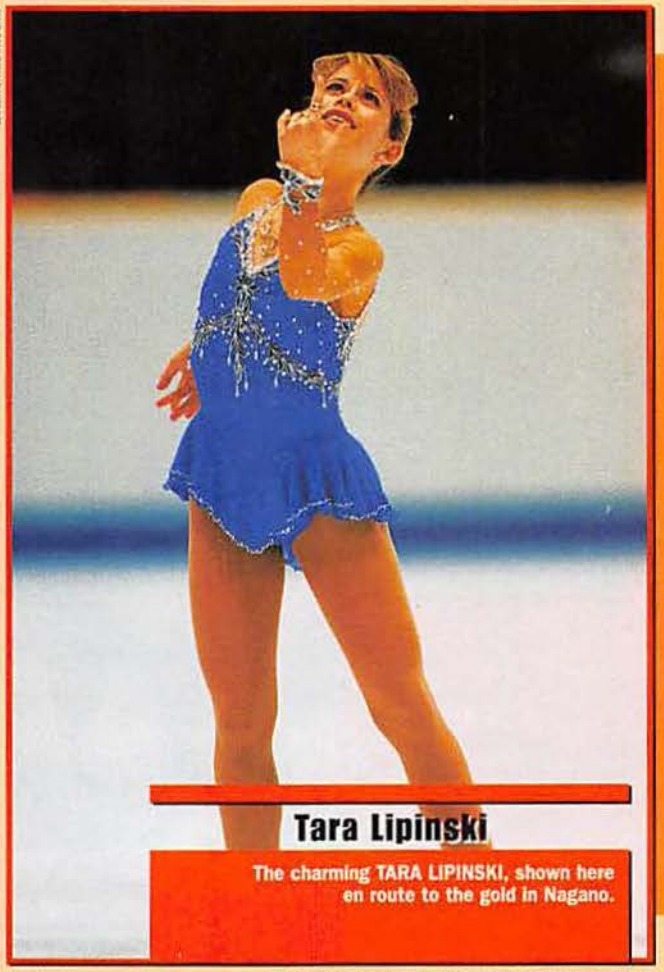
Super Bowl XXXII; Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego; the Broncos and the Packers. And JEWEL, who made tens of millions of male hearts beat faster as she sang our national anthem. Doesn't she make you feel patriotic?



JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT

Michelle Kwan

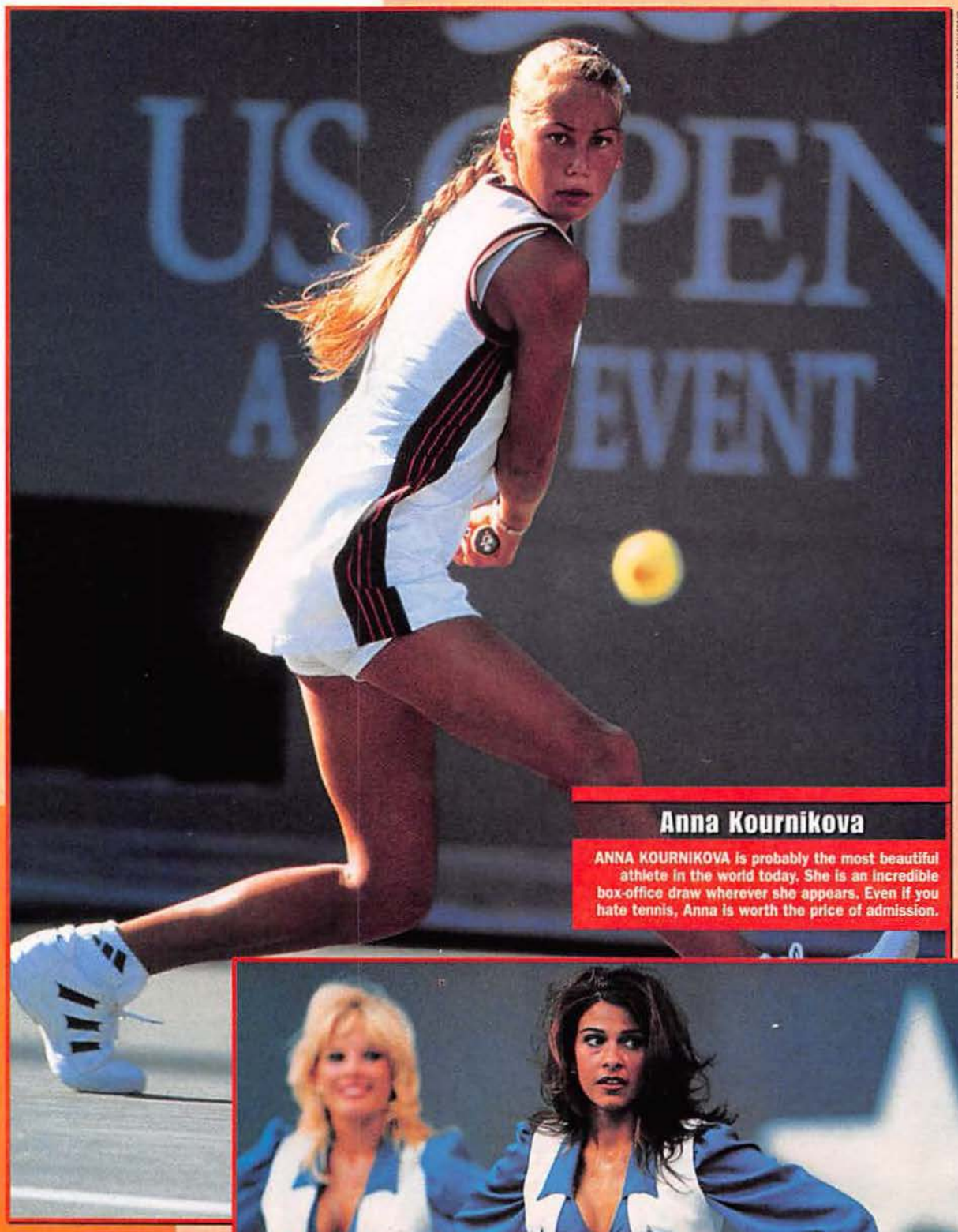
MICHELLE KWAN has matured into one of the reigning goddesses of popular culture. Seen here at the Winter Olympic Games, she is both the all-American girl and a stunning ice queen, favorably recalling the great beauties of earlier eras.



CLIVE BRUNSKILL/ALLSPORT

Tara Lipinski

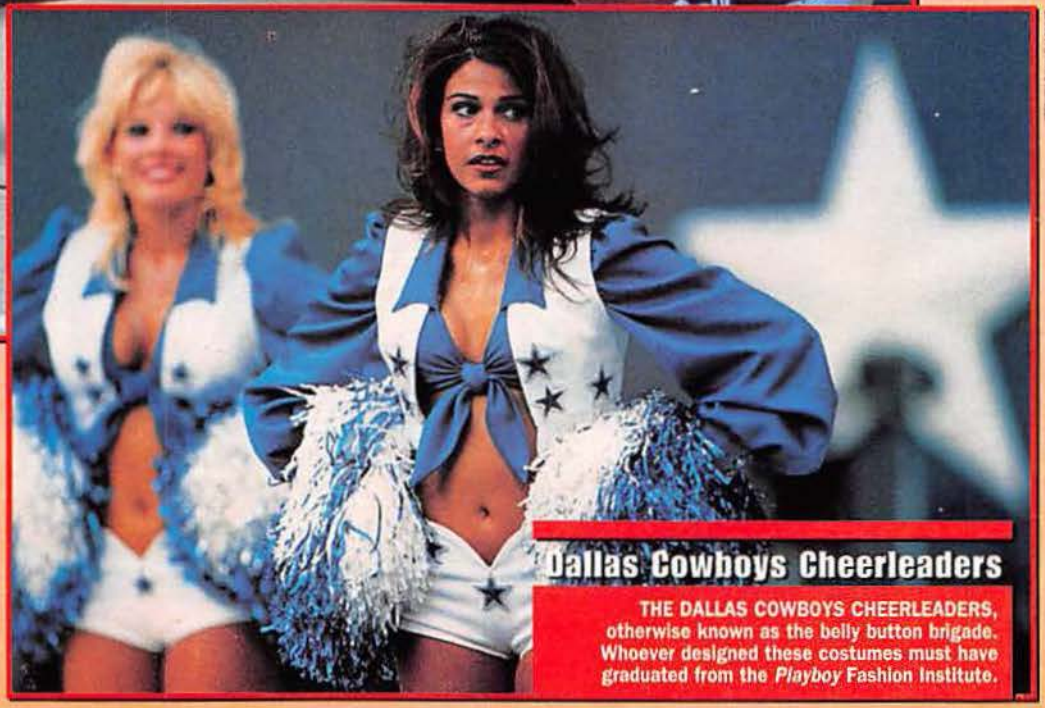
The charming TARA LIPINSKI, shown here en route to the gold in Nagano.



GARY M. PRIOR/ALLSPORT

Anna Kournikova

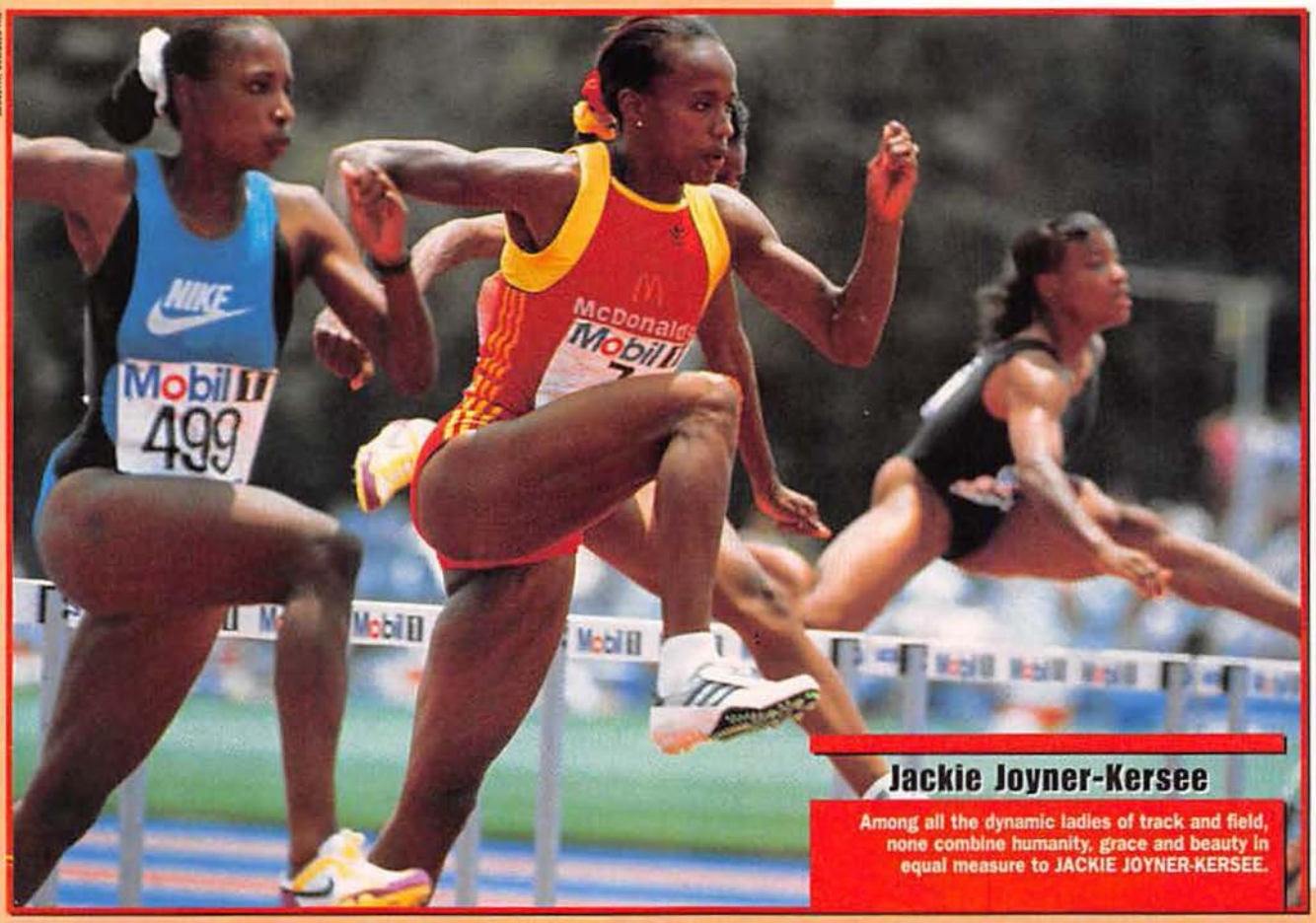
ANNA KOURNIKOVA is probably the most beautiful athlete in the world today. She is an incredible box-office draw wherever she appears. Even if you hate tennis, Anna is worth the price of admission.



STEPHEN DUNN/ALLSPORT

Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders

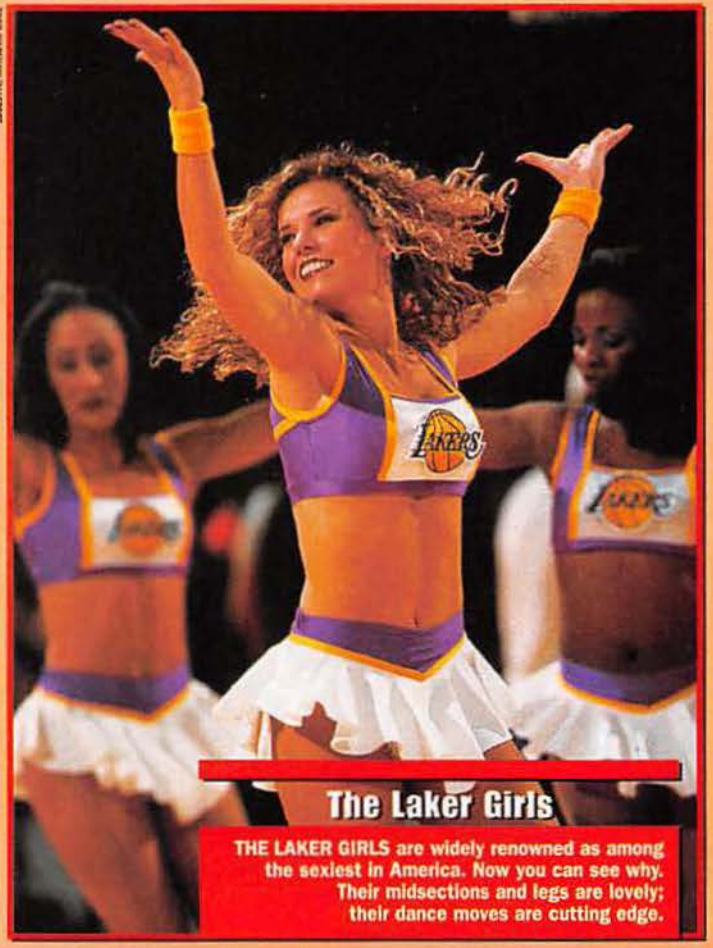
THE DALLAS COWBOYS CHEERLEADERS, otherwise known as the belly button brigade. Whoever designed these costumes must have graduated from the *Playboy* Fashion Institute.



TIM DEFRISCO/ALLSPORT

Jackie Joyner-Kersee

Among all the dynamic ladies of track and field, none combine humanity, grace and beauty in equal measure to JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE.



TODD WARSHAW/ALLSPORT

The Laker Girls

THE LAKER GIRLS are widely renowned as among the sexiest in America. Now you can see why. Their midsections and legs are lovely; their dance moves are cutting edge.

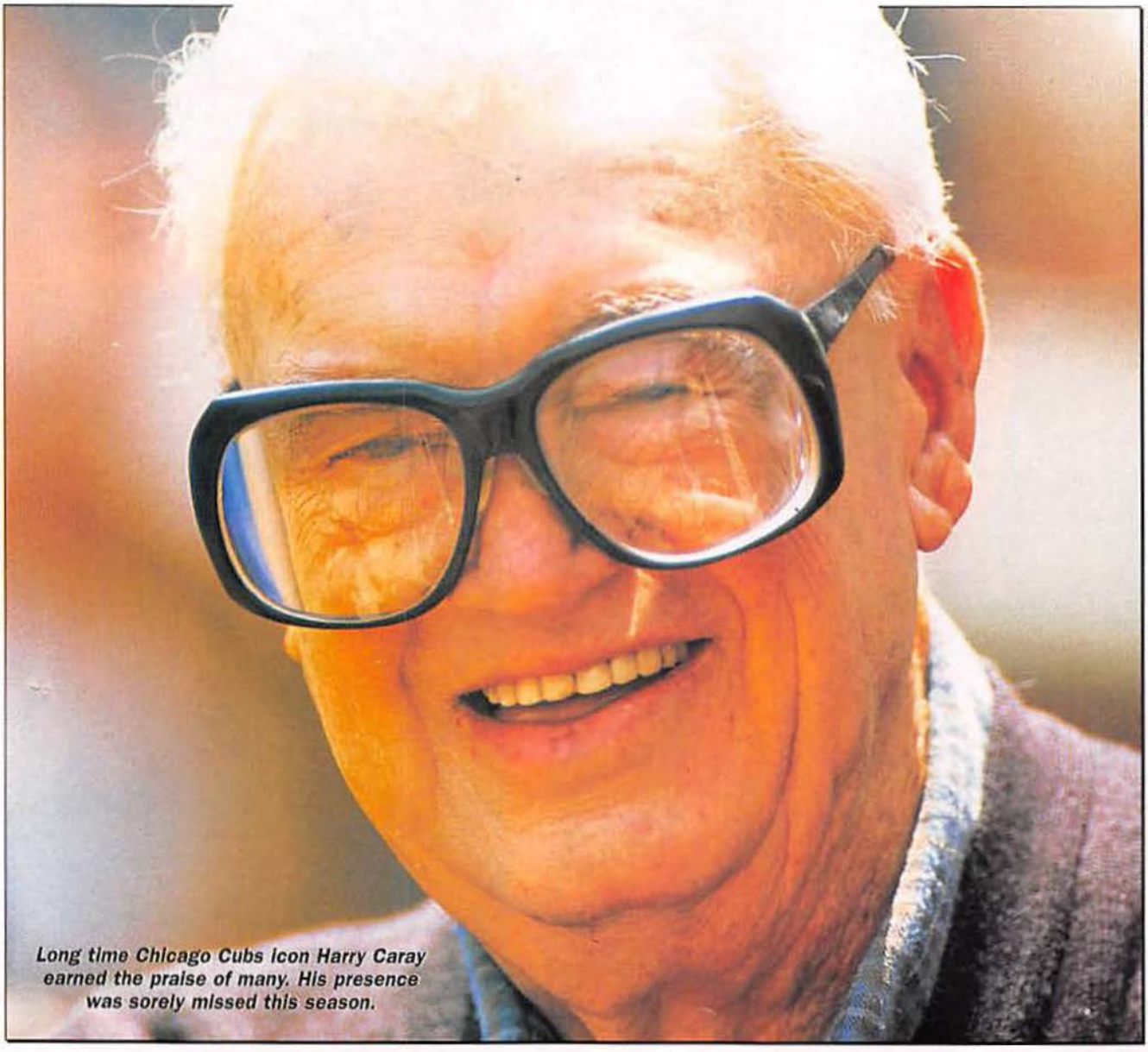
MICHAEL C. HEBERT/SPREUCE PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

USC Cheerleaders

USC CHEERLEADERS: Victorious, wholesome, delightful.

THE NATIONAL SPORTS REVIEW

Passages



MATTHEW STOCKMAN/ALLSPORT

Long time Chicago Cubs icon Harry Caray earned the praise of many. His presence was sorely missed this season.

Tony Lavelli Jr. (January 8): Lavelli, an All-American at Yale and the number one draft pick of the Boston Celtics in 1949, died at age 71.

Vic Prinzl (Jan. 14): Prinzl, who died of lung cancer at age 61, was a former Florida State quarterback and long-time radio announcer of the team's games.

Larry Gilbert (Jan. 21): One of several late-bloomers who never did much on men's pro golf tour but made big bucks as a senior competitor, Gilbert, who died of lung cancer at age 55, earned just $20,000 on the PGA Tour but $3.2 million on the Senior PGA Tour.

Ricky Graham (Jan. 23): A three-time American Motorcyclist Assn. champion, Graham died in a fire at his home in Monterey County. He was 39.

Houston Harris (aka Bobo Brazil): Professional wrestling fans in the days before the business grew in popularity remember the charismatic and popular Harris, whose patented move was the "coco (head) butt." Harris died at age 74.

Doug Blosser (Jan. 25): Blosser, the Kansas City Royals third round draft pick in 1995, died in a one-car crash in Sarasota, Fla.

Anna May Hutchison (February 1): Hutchison, who died at age 72, pitched for the Racine Belles of the All-American Girls' Baseball League in the 1940s and appeared in the 1992 movie *A League of Their Own*.

George "Bad News" Cafego (February): Cafego, who died at age 82, was an All-American at the University of Tennessee and a member of the College Football Hall of Fame

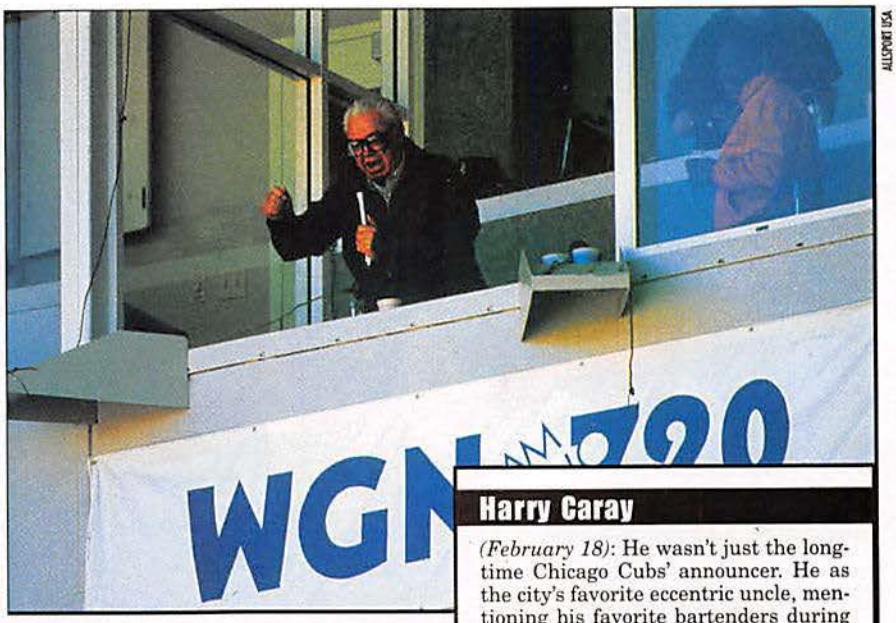
Lionel Aldridge (February 12): Aldridge, who died at age 57, played defensive end for the Green Bay Packers during their glory days of the 1960s.

Billy Sullivan (Feb. 23): Sullivan, who died at age 82 of cancer, brought pro football to New England when he acquired the rights to one of the American Football League's original franchises in 1960. He called his team the Boston Patriots.

Larry Friend (March 2): Friend starred for the University of California's powerhouse teams of the mid-1950s, averaging 19 points per game as a senior. He died of prostate cancer at age 62.

Ray Nitschke (March 8): A few players epitomized the blue collar, roughneck NFL player: Bronco Nagurski, Bobby Lane, Dick Butkus and Nitschke. Once he stepped onto the field, the Green Bay middle linebacker, who died of a heart attack at age 61, looked as if he would wring someone's neck. He played with a perpetual snarl and clearly enjoyed hitting anyone who got in his way. That aggressiveness made Nitschke the league's most feared player before Butkus arrived, and the most active on the field. In his 15-year career, he picked off 25 passes and recovered 20 fumbles. He made only one Pro Bowl, but that was before lobbying for awards became so prevalent. He was eventually voted the league's all-time best linebacker for the NFL's first 50 years.

Roy V. "R.V." Yates (March): Yates, who died at age 91, trained 1956 Kentucky Derby winner Needles as a yearling.



ALLSPORT USA

Ray Scott (March 23): Scott, who died at age 78, was the voice of the Green Bay Packers from 1956 to 1967.

Carol Fletcher Metten (April 3): At 17 years old, Metten was the youngest member of the 1924 U.S. Olympic team. She won a bronze medal in Paris in springboard diving.

Edgar Allen Ablowich (April 8): Ablowich, who died at age 84, was a member of the 1,600-relay team that won a gold medal at the 1932 Olympics.

Kenny Duckett (April 15): The 38-year-old Duckett, a former NFL wide receiver, was found dead at his home in Winston-Salem, N.C. Duckett had suffered kidney failure.

Gardner Dickinson (April 19): Dickinson, who died at age 70 after a long illness, possessed a superb Ryder Cup record and was a founder of the PGA Tour.

James McGriff (April 19): McGriff, a prized football recruit for the University of Florida, drowned after being pulled away by a rip current at Indialantic, Fla. He was 19.

Jim Toring (April 20): The 23-year-old Toring, one of the best water polo players in the United States, died eight days after being hit by a Paris bus while on tour with the American national team.

Vernon Holland (April 21): Holland, a first-round draft pick of the Cincinnati Bengals in 1971, died of a heart attack in his Nashville apartment.

Kimberly Stogner (May 2): The 36-year-old jockey died from injuries she suffered in a fall during a race at Ribbon Downs in Sallisaw, Okla.

Rommie Loudd (May 9): Loudd, who died of complications from diabetes, was the first black assistant coach in the American Football League.

Pete Griffin (May 14): Florida A&M's former track coach, who died at age 81, is best known for helping to develop Bob Hayes, the Olympic gold medalist in the 100 meters at the 1964 Olympics and later a Dallas Cowboys wide receiver.

Harry Caray

(February 18): He wasn't just the long-time Chicago Cubs' announcer. He as the city's favorite eccentric uncle, mentioning his favorite bartenders during the middle of his broadcasts, leading the diehard fans at Wrigley Field in a horribly off key but wonderful rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." In his thick-rimmed glasses, Caray was a familiar sight at downtown Chicago pubs. He was quick to buy a drink and entertain other patrons with his story telling and off-beat sense of humor. None other than Hillary Rodham Clinton, a life-long Cubs' fan, praised Caray upon hearing of his passing. Caray died at age 77 days after collapsing in a Palm Springs restaurant. He had risen to acknowledge applause after people in the restaurant were told he was there.

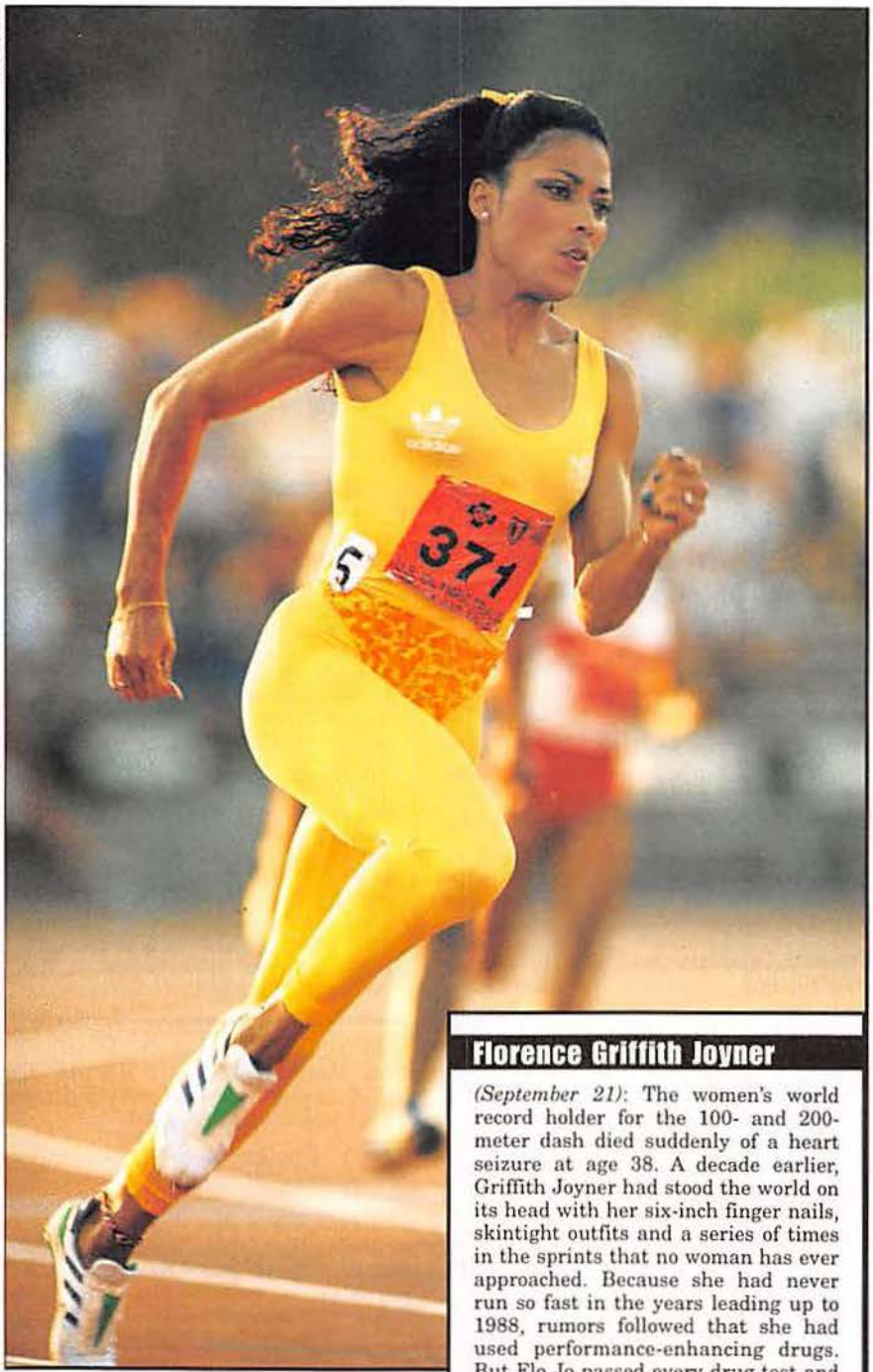
Fred Hatfield (May 22): Hatfield, who died of cancer at age 74, played for five major league teams from 1950-58.

Shirley Povich (June 4): Washington, D.C. lost one of its most beloved storytellers when Povich died at age 92 of a heart attack. He delighted even casual sports fans for 75 years with his columns in *The Washington Post*. Even the targets of his gentle wit had trouble staying angry at him. Povich's last piece ran on the morning after his death.

Lawrence Gable (June 8): The former Harlem Wizzard collapsed and died of a heart attack at age 48.

Charles "Red" Silvia (June 17): In 41 years as swimming coach at Springfield, Mass., Silvia, who died at age 87, coached 200 All-American swimmers and an Olympic gold medalist.

Al Campanis (June 21): It is unfortunate that Campanis, who died at the age of 81, will probably be best known for comments he made on *Nightline* about how blacks don't have "the necessities" to become general managers or quarterbacks. Campanis, who enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the Los Angeles Dodgers' front office, had supported the integration of baseball. He was not considered a racist. His defenders pointed out that he was tired when he agreed to speak with Ted Koppel. But Campanis had ample opportunity to amend or retract his remarks. Instead, he elaborat-



BRIAN SPURLOCK

Florence Griffith Joyner

(September 21): The women's world record holder for the 100- and 200-meter dash died suddenly of a heart seizure at age 38. A decade earlier, Griffith Joyner had stood the world on its head with her six-inch finger nails, skintight outfits and a series of times in the sprints that no woman has ever approached. Because she had never run so fast in the years leading up to 1988, rumors followed that she had used performance-enhancing drugs. But Flo Jo passed every drug test and offered to submit to subsequent tests at any time. Friends also vehemently defended Flo Jo, one of track and field's most beloved figures.

ed on them, much to the embarrassment of his team, which fired him after 44 years of service. An otherwise exceptional career ended in disgrace.

Glenn Montgomery (June 27): The former Houston Oiler defensive lineman died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, the genetic disorder that killed Lou Gehrig. Montgomery, like Gehrig, died young. He was just 31.

Francis "Franny" Murray (June 27): Murray, who died at age 82 of complications from a stroke, earned All-America honors in football and basketball at the University of Pennsylvania and later played for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Sid Luckman (July 5): Luckman, who died at age 81, was one of the NFL's first great quarterbacks. An All-American at Columbia University, he signed with the Chicago Bears in 1939 for $5,000 a year, the highest sum that any player had received until that point. He did not disappoint Chicago. In 12 seasons, he became the Bears' all-time leader in touchdowns with 137 and total yards with 14,686. In 1940, he led Chicago to a 73-0 victory over the Washington Redskins, which still ranks as the greatest rout in NFL history.

Al Couppee (July 7): Couppee, who died of a stroke, quarterbacked the Iowa team that featured Heisman Trophy winner Nile Kinnick.

Elijah Pitts (July 10): Pitts, who died of abdominal cancer at age 60, was a former Green Bay Packers and Buffalo Bills coach.

Morris "Red" Badgro (July 12): The 95-year-old Badgro caught the first touchdown pass in an NFL championship game and was a four-time All-NFL selection.

Cody Koch (July 27): The 25-year-old boxer died following an altercation at a Shields, Mich., nightclub.

Richie Powers (August 5): Powers, who died at age 67 after suffering a stroke, was considered one of the NBA's best referees in the 1970s. A talented athlete, he played baseball and basketball at St. John's University.

Sam Balter (August 8): Balter, who died at age 88, was a member of the 1936 U.S. basketball team, which won the sport's first Olympic gold medal. He was the only Jewish athlete to win a gold medal at the Games, which were held in Berlin under the scowl of Adolf Hitler.

Tony Baker (August 9): The 53-year-old Baker, a former Pro Bowl player, died in a car accident in Minneapolis, Iowa.

John Myers (August 9): Myers, the second winningest rider in National Hot Rod Association pro stock history, died at age 40 when he crashed while riding his motorcycle recreationally.

Jim Murray (August 16): Murray, who died at age 78 of heart failure, was a rarity: a sportswriter who was beloved. Even athletes whom he occasionally took to task in his firm yet gentle way praised the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist. "He was pretty good at reflecting what your thoughts were," said Kareem Abdul Jabbar, a prickly interview for journalists. Murray's writing was buttery smooth. His insights about sports were remarkable for a non-athlete, who once said the last thing in the world he would want to do is play centerfield for the Yankees. Murray said more than most writers in fewer words. "Calling him a sports writer was a little demeaning," said ESPN baseball analyst Peter Gammons. "He was a genius of the written word."

Frank Wyatt Lewis Sr. (August 16): Lewis, who died at age 85, won a gold medal in wrestling at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

Chad Coleman (August 28): The 30-year-old stock car racer died from injuries he suffered in a multi-car crash during the ARCA Georgia Power 200 stock car race at the Atlanta Motor Speedway.

DAN QUISENBERRY (Sept. 30): Quisenberry, who died at age 45 after a long battle with a brain tumor, was one of baseball's best closers during the '80s. A member of the 1985 World Champion Kansas City Royals, Quisenberry racked up 244 saves over his major league career.

MARK BELANGER (October 6): Belanger, who died at age 54 of lung cancer, was one of baseball's all-time best fielding shortstops. Despite a .228 career batting average, he won eight gold gloves and had a .997 fielding percentage, eighth-best among shortstops in major-league history. A member of the 1970 World Champion Baltimore Orioles, Belanger served as assistant to Major League Baseball Players Association union head Don Fehr after his retirement.

How to make your car invisible to radar and laser

Rocky Mountain Radar introduces a device guaranteed to make your car electronically "invisible" to speed traps—if you get a ticket while using the product, the manufacturer will pay your fine!

by Phil Jones

If your heart doesn't skip a beat when you drive past a speed trap—even if you aren't speeding—don't bother reading this. I can't tell you how many times that has happened to me. Driving down the interstate with my cruise control set at eight miles over the limit, I catch a glimpse of a police car parked on the side of the road. My heart skips a beat and for some reason I look at my speedometer. After I have passed the trap, my eyes stay glued to my rear view mirror, praying the police officer will pass me up for a "bigger fish."

■ *The Phazer will "jam" both radar and laser guns, preventing police from measuring your speed.*

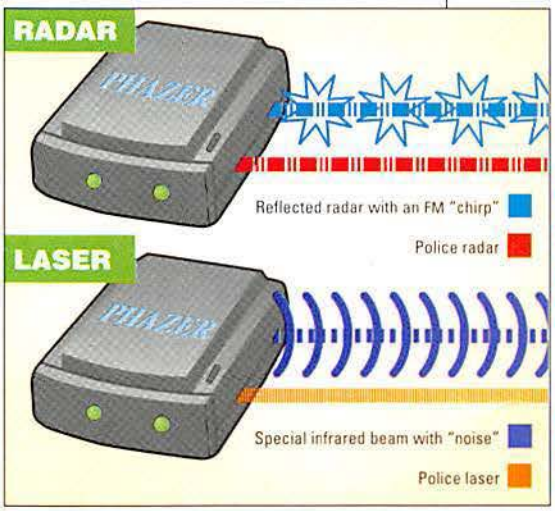
It seems that as speed-detection technology has gotten more and more advanced, speeding tickets have become virtually unavoidable. And although devices exist that enable motorists to detect these speed traps, they are outlawed in many states... including mine.

The solution. Today, Rocky Mountain Radar offers drivers like me a perfect solution—the Phazer. Combining a passive radar scrambler with an active laser scrambler, the Phazer makes your automobile electronically "invisible" to police speed-detecting equipment.

The radar component works by mixing an X, K or Ka radar signal with an FM "chirp" and bouncing it back at the squad car by way of a waveguide antenna, effectively confusing the computer inside the radar gun. The laser component transmits an infrared beam that has the same effect on laser Lidar units.

Shown actual size, the Phazer is only 3"W x 4"L x 1.5"H!

Perfectly legal. Some radar devices have been outlawed because they *transmit* scrambling radar beams back to the waiting law enforcement vehicle. The Phazer, however, *reflects* a portion of the signal plus an added FM signal back to the police car. This, in effect, gives the waiting radar unit an electronic "lobotomy." Best of all, unless you are a resident of California, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Virginia or Washington, D.C., using the Phazer is completely within your legal rights.



HOW TO MAKE YOUR CAR DISAPPEAR

Radar and laser scramblers are devices that foil speed traps by making vehicles electronically "invisible" to police radar. Radar scramblers mix a portion of the radar signal with background clutter and reflect it back to the squad car. This technique, pioneered by Rocky Mountain Radar, creates an unreadable signal that confuses the computer inside the radar gun.

The laser scrambler in the Phazer works in a similar manner. It transmits a special infrared beam with information designed to scramble the laser signal. The result? Readouts on police radar and laser guns remain blank. As far as the police officer is concerned, your vehicle is not even on the road.

■ *The Phazer makes your car invisible to police radar and lasers or the manufacturer will pay your speeding ticket!*

How it scrambles radar. Police radar takes five to 10 measurements of a vehicle's speed in about one second. The Phazer sends one signal that tells the radar the car is going 15 m.p.h. and another signal that the car is going 312 m.p.h. Because police radar can't verify the speed, it displays no speed at all.

Works with laser, too! The Phazer also protects your vehicle from Lidar guns that use the change in distance over time to detect a vehicle's speed. The Phazer uses light-emitting diodes (LEDs) to fire invisible infrared pulses through the windshield. Laser guns interpret those pulses as a false indication of the car's distance, blocking measurement of your speed.

Range up to three miles. The Phazer begins to scramble both radar and laser signals as far as three miles away from the speed trap. Its range of effectiveness extends to almost 100 feet away from the police car, at which point you should be able to make visual contact and reduce your speed accordingly.

Encourage responsible driving. While the Phazer *is* designed to help you (and me) avoid speed traps, it *is not* intended to condone excessive speeding. For that reason, within the first year, the manufacturer will pay tickets where the speed limit was not exceeded by more than 30%, or 15 miles per hour, whichever is less.

Double protection from speed traps. If the Phazer sounds good, but you prefer to be *notified* when you are in range of a police radar, the Phantom is for you. The Phantom combines the Phazer (including the Ticket Rebate Program) with a radar detector. It's legal in every state except California, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Ask your representative for more details!

4"W x 4"L x 1.5"H

Risk-free. Speed traps don't make my heart skip a beat anymore. The Phazer and Phantom are both backed by our risk-free trial and three-year manufacturer's warranty. Try them, and if you're not satisfied, return your purchase within 90 days for a "No Questions Asked" refund.

The Phazer:
Three credit-card payments of $66.50 $14 S&H

The Phantom:
Three credit-card payments of $116.50 $18 S&H

Please mention promotional code **4452-14467.**

For fastest service, call toll-free 24 hours a day

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TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Big sound from a stereo radio—without the big price!

Zenith Audio, a leading electronics manufacturer designs a "Small Footprint", "Big Sound" stereo system and drives the price below $100.

by John Jameson

I leaned back slowly in my chair with my eyes closed, listening to the haunting melody of a Mozart symphony. The acoustics were flawless, and the room was soon filled with full, rich stereo sound. From the crisp highs of the flutes to the tooth-rattling bass of the kettle drums, the music was crystal-clear and powerful. I could distinguish the distinct sounds from each individual musician, and as the orchestra reached the finale I almost fell out of my seat from the awesome force of the music. As the music faded, I leaned forward and hit a button on the stereo clock radio. I had a concert to go to that night—it was time to check the weather.

Ultimate sound machine. Zenith Audio has developed a Digital Stereo Clock Radio that boasts the acoustic quality and practical features of stereo radios four times as expensive. You'll be amazed at the sound quality and powerful bass you get from a radio this small and this affordable. This stereo radio features an 11-key handheld remote control and an input jack for CD players or other audio sources.

The best bass. Many small stereo radios can sound tiny and weak. This unit has an exclusive EXB button for expanded bass performance. It intensifies the lower tones for CD or FM stations, giving you rich, full and powerful stereo sound. If you want to listen to the stereo in private, there is a headphone jack on the side of the unit.

Loaded with features. You won't find a tabletop stereo with more added options. The AM/FM radio features digital tuning for pinpoint reception and crystal-clear sound. The STEREO indicator allows you to tune in to the stereo signal. It also picks up TV and WEATHER signals with 13 TV channels and 7 Weather channels, so your Zenith Audio Clock Radio is a great source of news, entertainment and information. You can program the unit's memory for 37 preset stations, and the tuning buttons can operate either manually or in a automatic search mode.

Practical functions. The backlit clock has several alarm functions, so you can wake to either radio, TV, Weather or a buzzer. The sleep timer allows you to fall asleep to up to 90 minutes of music, TV or weather and then shuts off automatically. In the morning, if you need a few extra minutes of sleep, press the SNOOZE bar on the control panel or on the remote. The radio or alarm tone stops for 10 minutes and then sounds again. The process can be repeated several times as required. The unit's battery backup system will maintain the time, alarm and preset station memories in the event of a temporary power interruption. There is even a low battery indicator so you'll never oversleep in the event of a power failure.

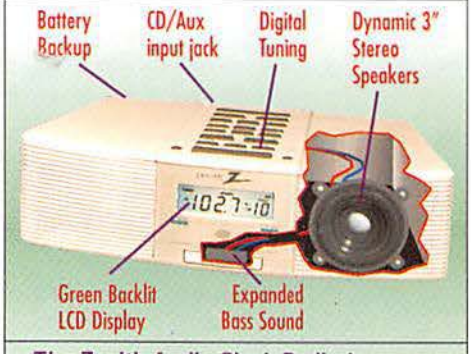
Factory direct risk-free offer. You can spend hundreds of dollars more on a stereo radio, but why do it? We get the Stereo Clock Radio direct from Zenith Audio and pass the savings on to you. This product comes with a one-year manufacturer's limited warranty and Comtrad's exclusive risk-free home trial. If you are not satisfied for any reason, simply return it within 90 days for a full "No Questions Asked" refund.

Micro-Electronic Sound Breakthrough

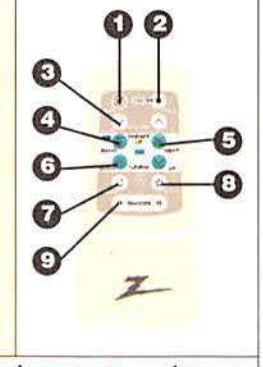
State of the art stereo sound quality in a stylish cabinet

- AM/FM/TV Bands
- Stereo Speakers with Crystal Sound System
- Digital Weather Band
- 37 Preset Station Memories
- Ascending Tone Alarm
- Wake/Sleep to Radio, Weather or TV Band
- "Fail-safe" Alarm System

Compact Speakers with a Big Sound



The Zenith Audio Clock Radio has an exclusive EXB button for expanded bass performance. It intensifies the lower tones for CD or FM stations, giving you rich, full and powerful stereo sound.



11-key full function remote works up to 15 feet away.

The Zenith Crystal Clear Stereo comes in white or black.

Zenith Crystal Clear Stereo. $99.95 $12 S&H

Please specify white or black.

Please mention promotional code **4242-14468.**

For fastest service, call toll-free 24 hours a day

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